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# History of Ceres

AND ITS NEAR VICINITY

*New York*  
FROM ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT IN 1798

TO THE PRESENT.

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THE EARLY PART WRITTEN BY  
M. W. MANN, OF COUDERSPORT,  
AND THE LATTER PART BY  
MARIA KING, OF CERES.

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OLEAN, N. Y.:  
GILLETT & WESTON.  
1896.

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*Maria King.*



PREFACE.

The first chapter of this history was written by Mrs. Mann on request of the Historical Society of Portville. They requested her to continue the work and she began on the second chapter, but could not go on with it, but requested me to do so. I finished up the chapter in the brief way I supposed was designed, and it remained so for several years, when the matter was again brought up and it seemed desirable to bring it down to the present, with a brief mention of the families who had lived here many years, or were in any way prominent in the community. I am well aware that my work is imperfectly done, but let him who criticises take the material and do better. Much has been hunted up with considerable labor, and of course much has been omitted through forgetfulness, and perhaps something put in that should not be.

M. KING

Gift of Miss Mary J. Anderson, Chicago, 4.24.18.





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## CHAPTER I.

PEOPLE who visit Rock City in Allegany county, New York, and look upon those singular water-worn rocks on a high hill surrounded and surmounted, too, in some cases by large trees, all repeat the question, "How came they here?"

The same query arises in one's mind in regard to those who form a new settlement in the heart of a wilderness, without roads, and without there being means of subsistence there. Why and how did they come here?

To account for it in this case the following is copied from an old manuscript:

In the year 1797 Francis King, of London, who came to the United States in the autumn of 1795, was employed by John Keating, of Philadelphia, and others associated with him, to come through the northern section of what was then known as Lycoming county, Pa., to explore the country and examine a large body of land then owned by William Bingham, Esq., with the view of making an extensive purchase, if he should find the land well situated and susceptible to cultivation.

Francis King then lived at Asylum, or Frenchtown, on the northeast branch of the Susquehanna, about twenty miles below Tioga Point. From this place, accompanied only by a boy of fourteen, with a pack-horse to carry his provisions, he set off up the Chemung and Conewango rivers until they reached the extreme frontier settlement near the state line between Pennsylvania and New York, expecting to be able to reach the settlement on the West Branch of the Susque-



hanna, at the mouth of the Sinnamahoning, in about two weeks. After this there was some detention from high water, and taking a wide range in the exploration, they were out six weeks. In these six weeks they did not meet a human being, though they frequently saw signs of Indians having recently been there before them.

Their provisions were damaged by the wet weather and they did not succeed in killing any of the deer, or elk which they saw, until almost reduced to starvation. One evening however, Mr. King shot and killed an elk, but when they tried to eat of it, it proved more than their weak stomachs could retain at first.

They were then on the head waters of the Sinnamahoning and with great labor and difficulty in their weak condition they managed to make a small raft of logs, and having put on some of their meat, Mr. King started with it down the stream, having directed the boy to ride the horse along the bank. He knew nothing of the distance to a settlement, nor of the nature of the stream. He soon found himself in a rough, rocky rapid, but he got safely through. The next day he entered the Susquehanna, and a mile below came to a house. The people were not able to take them in, so the boy rode on to a house a mile farther down the stream and there found they could be received. Mr. King was seriously sick. He allowed the boy and horse to rest two days, then sent the boy with the horse back to Asylum. The boy also carried a letter to Mr. King's wife, but on arriving he was so overcome by his feelings that he could not speak and did not deliver the letter for nearly an hour, so that the family were in an agony of suspense until he partially recovered. Let me





stop here to say that I have not found later mention of this poor child of fourteen years, who so bravely went through this terrible ordeal of going home alone, through that long wilderness, after all he had previously suffered. Not his name, even, have I found, though if the manuscript before me had been continued, no doubt we should have known more of him. I can only hope that he had a comfortable home and love and care, and all things to help him on to a good and happy life, and that wherever this story shall come, that this that he did shall be told as a memorial of him.

During Mr. King's sojourn in the family that took him in, he suffered much for needful food and things that are necessary in sickness. The people were very poor and without provisions, except venison, which they obtained by having their dogs drive the deer into the water, where they could shoot them. They rubbed out green rye, dried it and then pounded it, to get some thickening for their soup.

While he was still suffering and helpless, his kind(?) host went down to Big Island, forty miles below, and gave information that a Yankee surveyor, who had been in the woods sometime, taking up land for the Yankee claim, was at his house. He wanted a reward for giving information, but he met with no encouragement, and returned home disappointed.

It is to be remembered that at that time there were difficulties between the Pennsylvania claimants to lands in the northern part of Pennsylvania, Connecticut's charter having been pretty extensive westward. In about six weeks Mr. King recovered so as to be able to return to his family at Asylum.

Finding that he could not get a good title to



the land which he had purchased at Asylum, owing to the failure of two large land owners—Robert Morris and John Nicholson—and being pleased with the country through which he had passed, and the persons who had employed him being satisfied with his report, so that they had made the contemplated purchase, and offered to employ him as their agent, he resolved to move his family into this part of the country.

In the spring of 1797 he engaged a few men, hired a boat in which he took his provisions, tools, etc., and went down the North Branch of the Susquehanna to Northumberland, thence up the West Branch to the mouth of the Sinnamahoning, at which place was the last settlement of white people on his route.

They went up the Sinnamahoning as far as they could go, which was a place called Driftwood, which was at the mouth of a branch of the Sinnamahoning, called after this Portage from these immigrants having carried their effects along it and across to the Allegany. At this time the State had engaged a man by the name of William O'Grady to open a road from that point to the Allegany river, a distance of twenty-three miles, so as to better enable immigrants going to Presque Isle (now Erie), or other western places, to cross from one river to the other. Our immigrant party assisted in making this road, and passed over it with a wagon drawn by oxen, transporting their freight to the Allegany, where they made canoes, thus giving the name of Canoe Place (still to be found on old maps), and later Port Allegany. They descended the river from this place about thirty-four miles, to the mouth of the Oswayo, a tributary of the Allegany, from the southeast, which was about one and a half miles north of the state



line; thence up the Oswayo nearly six miles to a place previously selected, which they named Ceres.

Here they put up a small camp in which to live until they could build a log house.

The distance they had come since leaving the last house was one hundred miles.

Mr. King cleared a small piece of land, planted it, and then made some further explorations. He found a settlement of three families about thirty miles to the northeast, in New York, near where is now the village of Andover. This was twelve miles from any other settlement. These families had been there but a short time and consequently had raised but little, but they were generous and hospitable with that little. Their names were Dyke, and the place was long known as Dyke's settlement. Mr. Dyke, a married son and a married daughter with their families had made the settlement there.

In another direction from Ceres, about fifty-six miles, he discovered two families at a place in Tioga county called Big Meadows. This place was at one of the forks of Pine Creek. There was no road in that direction until he cut a path.

The little clearing at Ceres, I think, was sowed with wheat. Apple seeds and peach stones were planted as the first step towards the orchards that were to stock the country with fruit.

In the fall the men who had been hired to accompany him returned to their homes, as he also did.

In the spring of 1798, Mr. King, with his family and some workmen, started for the Oswayo by the same route followed the year before. A little above the mouth of Pine Creek, somewhere near where Lock Haven now stands,





the mother and four older children were left to wait while the father went back to Asylum for the three other children and their nurse. They were brought on in the canoe and sometime in May the whole family started again. By the payment of considerable sums in advance and the promise of good wages, two families were induced to go with them; but they, like many others after them, chose to continue their journey down the Allegany, without refunding the money paid them, thus leaving their employers alone.

The voyage up the river was slow and laborious. The water was swift and often so shallow that they would be obliged to unload and carry their freight past the shallow rapids into deep water. Between Driftwood and Canoe Place they met the first Indians. Mr. King had gone on before the family and was out of sight. The children were frightened, but the mother had no fear of these wronged children of the forest, whose fate lay heavy on her heart. She quieted the alarm of her little children and then went forward to meet them, and was soon in friendly converse. The Indians knew them by their dress as the children of Penn, and probably had heard of their coming. Kind feeling, as this manuscript says, needs no interpreter, and this pilgrim mother had afforded her children better protection than an armed force could have given.

On arriving at Ceres, which was near the last of June, they set about clearing more land, so as to get in a patch of corn in addition to the wheat sown the fall before. It was a glad time of the year to begin life in the wilderness, for the whole air was sweet with the fragrance of trees and flowers. Birds were few, but what there were made music for them. Their cattle ranged





the hills and their bells re-echoed among the trees. They had no trouble from wild animals, personally, though for many years their flocks suffered. One of these early settlers used to say in his later days, "I never met any animals in the woods but that thought I was the uglier, and would run from me." There was no woman in the settlement but Mrs. King, when, in September, a little girl was born to her. She lived only a few months, but already a burying ground had been laid out, for that is a human need that can not be set aside, and the Kings were devout members of the Society of Friends.

The land company, called at that time "The Ceres Company," was composed of several persons in France, and I think of some in Holland, with an executive branch in Philadelphia, three members of which always signed deeds, contracts, etc. The chief person in the American branch was John Keating. He had been a Colonel in the French army, and I think was stationed in the West Indies at the time of the French Revolution, and on the death of Louis XVI came to the United States. He was of Irish birth and French education, and had the grace and polish befitting a courtly gentleman. He gave himself to business to retrieve his shattered fortunes, and spent the remainder of his long life in Philadelphia. He made many journeys to look after the Company's lands, and to confer with the agents; and he endured fatigue and privations as became a soldier. But he was no longer a soldier, nor an officer, but a most benevolent Christian gentleman, whom it was an honor and privilege to know, and whom it was impossible not to trust.

The Company, with much wisdom and foresight, made many plans for improving the coun-



try, and had the means for carrying them out—and we can but wonder at their far-reaching policy.

In this first summer, 1798, a sawmill was built set in a scallop made in the hillside, and fed with water brought three-quarters of a mile in a race which was cut through green tree roots, from a brook emptying into the Oswayo not far from where the first house stood. The next year a grist-mill was set up by its side, and these, with the clearing and cultivation of land, making of roads and constant surveying, gave employment to a great many people; while the ease with which they could leave by water made the population more than usually fleeting.

Mr. King had hired a young man and his wife at Big Meadows, to come and live with them. Pack-horse paths were cut through to Big Meadows and to Dyke's settlement, Andover, during the summer. There was no riding in those days. People were fortunate if they could find a sufficient path to get a horse through to carry their baggage, and as all provisions for the way had to be carried with them, bread, etc., prepared and baked at Ceres, for all these excursions, that place was a busy hive.

The wheat and corn raised that first summer had to be pounded in a mortar for meal, but much of it was cooked whole, being boiled a long time. The corn was hulled by being boiled in weak lie first.

The winter evenings were employed in preparing for the day's work. What could be raised was as yet in very insufficient quantities for their needs, and excursions had to be made to Pittsburgh, for the purchase of supplies.

The pioneer first started with canoes to make the journey. It was easier than carrying bur-



dens on the land. The Indians who were around the settlement were very kind and often of much service in finding the best ground for paths and roads, also in the construction of canoes and rafts, and in the many other ways friendly people find of being of service. They called Mr. King, Shinna-wanna, "The head man."

Their reservations lay along the Allegany for a distance of forty miles. Here they made him welcome. At a place they called Jennessie-Guhta, Mr. King met three young men sent thither by the Society of Friends as missionaries. These were Joel Swayne, Halliday Jackson and Henry Simmons. They had come there in 1798. As this was the Society to which Mr. King and his family belonged, it was pleasant to find them as neighbors—only sixty miles away.

The first journey down to the Indian reservation had been made to ascertain if there were obstructions in the Allegany that would prevent its navigation. There was nothing found more troublesome than sand and gravel beds and tops of trees, for the mills and dams that choked the stream in later years had not been built. Even those first mills at Ceres were run by water from a brook, and did not impede the public highway of the Allegany; nor even of the Oswayo. Finding the way open they continued on to Pittsburgh, where they procured supplies, and loading two or more canoes hired help to push them up the river. It was a long route with all its bends, the largest of which took them some distance into the State of New York. This journey was repeated more than once, for even when the grist-mill was completed, which was in the spring of 1801, it was long before enough grain was raised to supply the needs of the people, but it ground what grain was raised by the scattered





settlers that had come into the country at this time.

Once when the head of the family was away on a surveying trip longer than he expected, the larder became so nearly empty that there was cause for alarm. Mrs. King, who was a small, delicate woman, went herself to Pittsburgh, accompanied only by two Indians whom she hired, bought provisions and took them home by canoe. I cannot give the date of this journey, but it must have been in the earliest years, for in the eleventh month of 1801 she laid down her heroic life, leaving a little babe three hours old to the care of his brothers and sisters, the father having gone to Philadelphia to obtain supplies and to settle with the Land Company, where he was detained by high water and the difficulty of traveling in the winter, until March. There were then several families of work people in the neighborhood, so that there was a woman who could care for the poor baby; but in return for nursing the baby, (as she also had one of her own to nurse,) she claimed that she must be abundantly supplied with food; so the children gave of their supply until they would have starved themselves if it had not been for the meat brought them by the Indians.

Of the King children, the oldest, John, was but a little over seventeen, and the oldest daughter, Ann, was fifteen. There were two other daughters, Mary and Martha, younger than Ann; then a boy, James, and two girls, Jane and Annabella, and the baby brother. A helpless family in many ways to be left motherless in the wilderness, as they had never known anything about work before they came to America.

The little burying ground had received another occupant—the third, I think—for a grave used to



be pointed out as that of Mrs. Smea. The death of this beloved mother was so sad an event that it was never spoken of, even in their later years, by her children, without evident pain, and I never heard one allusion to the funeral nor their arrangements after, by any one of the family.

At one time, while the King girls were still all at home, they were making up the clothing for the family for winter, when they decided to pack it in a barrel until the barrel was filled. They had nearly accomplished their task when it took fire and was all burned, and a new stock of winter clothing had to be made.

Mr. King had to be gone for weeks at a time while surveying the distant portions of the Company's lands, and these children had to care for one another and themselves as best they could.

In these years some families came that remained. In 1802, John Bell, his wife and his son William, and two sons and a daughter of his wife's by a former marriage, Thomas, John and Mary Bee, all came. They came from Haltwhistle, Northumberlandshire, England, a place mentioned in one of Sir Walter Scott's novels, "Heart of Mid Lothian." They had come to Philadelphia not many years before, and Mr. Bell, who was a superior mechanic, had "built a hospital" in that city, but the yellow fever, of which there was more or less for several years, frightened them, and hearing of this break into the wilderness, they followed, leaving one son, John, with a family near the city to whom he was apprenticed to learn the saddlers' trade. After he attained his majority he, too, came to Ceres where he spent his long and useful life, as did also his brother William and his step-



brothers and sister, and where many of their descendants still live.

In 1802 also came Thomas Smith, his wife, Elizabeth, and four sons, Thomas, John, William and Henry. This was another family that came and remained. Mr. Smith was from Woolwich on the Thames, twenty miles then from London, and was a miller by trade. And after the first mill was past use, he built and run one but a few rods from the old saw-mill formerly owned by George N. Smith. This mill was on the Oswayo, a mile above Francis King's. This little hamlet was long known as Smith's Settlement. Here Thomas Smith, his wife and three sons lived to a good old age, excepting John who died in his prime, and passed away leaving many descendants, some of whom still remain. Thomas Jr. died in 1815, aged 21 years.

The Smith family was an important factor in the early settlement, as well as in all the later history of the place. The letters of introduction brought by Thomas Smith and John Bell from a member of the Keating Land Co., have been found within a few years, and a copy of them is inserted to show the estimation in which they were held by the Company.

Phila. 3 August, 1802.

This will be handed you by our Friend John Bell who has at last determined to move with all his family (one boy excepted) to Ceres Town. I am well convinced they will prove a very great acquisition to the settlement in every respect, for if this good man and his worthy and clever companion are pleased with their situation I conceive they will invite and encourage their friends and relations of England to come over and join them and as such people are of great





importance to a new country, I wish you to give them every assistance in your Power—to enable them to make their way. They are of a station in life not prepared to Endure hard-ships and I presume they will meet with some which are inseparable from the new country they are going to visit therefore endeavor as much as possible to alleviate them. I am extremely pleased with Mrs. Bell and have a very great opinion of her. Would lament very much her meeting with difficulty and hardships, from which I pray providence may guard her and hers.

John Keating is not as yet arrived but I hope he will make his appearance in the course of the present month. I long much for his return. I have paid to John Bell 100 Dollars which sum I will charge the Company. Wishing him and his family safe to you, and that they may meet you and yours hearty and prosperous, I am sir sincerely,

Your Affectionate Humble servant,  
RICH'D GERNON.

FRANCIS KING,  
Ceres Town,  
Lycoming Co.,  
Pennsylvania.

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MR. F' CIS KING,  
Ceres Town, Lycoming County,  
Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

I wrote you a few days ago by our friend Wm. Bell whose arrival with you I shall hear with particular pleasure and that his good Wyfe & family have experienced no hardships on their journey. Offer them my best compliments





for they have my good wishes for their prosperity & happiness.

This will I hope be delivered to you by Mr. Thomas Smith a Native of England & resident of Woolwich on Thames near London, who is very desirous of settling with his family (consisting of his Lady & 4 boys) on our Lands. Mr. Smith intends to take his Family up to Sunbury from whence he will ride up to see you & take a View of the Settlement, and make some arrangements respecting the land he wishes to take up. You will then please to assist Mr. Smith with your advice and aid, also afford this valuable settler all the advantages granted by the Company. Mr. Smith is lately come over from England, with several acquaintances Married & having families—who seem desirous of settling where he will, therefore I hope he will meet with every encouragement possible.

I had by the arrival of the British Packett a Letter from Mr. John Keating dated London 31st of May he was about ingaging a Passage for this Port therefore I daily look for his arrival.

Mr. Smiths friends who mean to follow him are Mr. Simonds a Married Young man and a Mr. Thomas Willis a young man also having a Large family of Six Children.

Wishing this may meet you & family I remain very Sincerely

Your friend,

RICH'D GERNON.

Philad'a 11th Aug. 1802.

William Ayers, his wife Mary, and three children were of the early comers, and were also English, and though some of their descendants



live at Ayer's Hill in Potter Co., I have been unable so far to find any data concerning them.

The colony thrived; the land was productive and the climate much more favorable than in later years. The orchards grew rapidly, and in a few years there were an abundance of peaches. Melons flourished and the corn called "gourd seed," and later, "Ohio corn" reared its stately height and ripened its grain with ease. Apple orchards were longer in coming into bearing than the peach orchards. As they were all raised from the seeds they were not of any celebrated kinds, but some of them proved to be so good that they were propagated by grafts, and very lately I heard a lady say that they had a Francis apple tree on their farm which was a graft from one this original stock.

There was one severe winter. Early in October, 1803, snow fell and lay on the ground for some time. There had been no previous frost and the vines and low vegetables were protected by the snow until it was gone, after which there was no frost until December. There were fresh cucumbers and pumpkins at Christmas, a thing that has not occurred since.

The manuscript before me says, "The next year," but it must have been the same winter for the "great flood" occurred in 1804. The snow fell to the depth of five feet, and supplies of food for the cattle failing, trees were cut down and paths dug or tramped to them, so that the cattle could browse from them. The snow gradually melted and warm, pleasant weather set in, which seemed to indicate that spring was near. There came a warm rain which melted the remaining snow so rapidly that there was the highest flood ever known in the Oswayo valley.

Thomas Smith and family were now living a



mile above the first settlement, and on lower ground, so that the Kings felt some anxiety about them, and taking an Indian canoe that had been left near went to look after them. Arriving at the door, still in the canoe, they found Mr. Smith busily engaged in bailing water from his cellar. He evidently thought, as Noah's neighbors did, that there was not going to be much of a flood. At the earnest representations of danger, Mrs. Smith and the youngest child were induced to enter the canoe, leaving Mr. Smith and his older sons to secure things as well as they could and then escape to land on horse-back. On returning over the swift waters the small, light canoe was overturned by being caught in a tree-top. It floated away leaving its passengers clinging to the tree. John King swam to where the canoe lodged and recovered it, and all finally got in and reached home safely after some hours delay. John King was nearly insensible with cold and exhaustion. They rolled him in blankets and were successful in arousing him, and towards evening he started again, this time on horse-back, for Mr. Smith and his two boys. He found him still at his home, but he started back with him on horse-back, each with a boy behind him. But a log bridge had broken up near where Mr. Leonard's house now stands, and the logs were floating, and John King's horse got a foot fast. He dismounted and tried to extricate the poor beast, but could not. It was night by this time, and he stood in the water holding up the horse's head to keep it from drowning, and they all shouted until help came from Mr. King's, more than half a mile away. There does not seem to have been any other family who was in danger. The water that spring was four feet higher than





it has ever been in the Oswayo since. Such a flood now would be terribly disastrous.

In all these years the postal privileges had been very limited, Williamsport, on the Susquehanna, being the nearest and most convenient post office. Letters from England were sent to the care of some one in Philadelphia. Mr. King's were sent to "William Compton, Merchant, Philadelphia, for Francis King." They were forwarded to Williamsport, directed to Cerestown, and were brought by any accredited person coming through. If no such person were found, and no opportunity of sending was expected, a messenger was sent on foot, or with a led horse, once a month, to bring the mail from the office, a distance of one hundred and fifteen miles. In this way came the business letters of the Company.

In the year 1801, I think, Ceres was laid out in village plats, as was also Smethport and Coudersport, with all the streets, public squares, &c. The plot of Ceres used to interest the children of the third and fourth generations, when that place had only developed a farm house, standing on the sight of the first log house, and the accompanying buildings, and the village had started at Smith's settlement, a mile away.

With this slight record closes the history of the first five years of Ceres.





## CHAPTER II.

THE former chapter brought the history of Ceres down to 1803, and also gave an account of the "great flood" in the spring of 1804. There is not much to recount for several years.

Not being able to find all the documents as yet I can not tell quite the nature of the trusteeship in which the names of John Keating, of Philadelphia, and Thomas Smith and John Bell, Sr., of Ceres, are signed to an instrument as "Trustees of McKean County."

McKean county was set off in 1804 as a separate county. It had previously been a part of Lycoming county, and there are still old letters preserved that were addressed to Cerestown, Lycoming county. There were commissioners and a treasurer appointed soon after it was set off.

The first Justice of the Peace was John C. Brevoost (Bravo), appointed in 1805. He had come to Ceres in the employ of the Land Company, as a surveyor. The first marriage he performed was in 1807, between Nathan Horton and Sally Atherton. The witnesses were: William Atherton, Rufus Atherton, Francis King, Betsey Atherton, Ann King, Mary King, Ann Watson, John King, Absalom Townsend, William Lister, C. Holean, and another name, evidently French, of which I am not sure, but think Du Jones. If any of the descendants are living and wish this certificate I will gladly give it to them.

The Governor of the State of Pennsylvania appointed Thomas Smith, John Bell, Sr., Samsom



Crawford and John C. Brevoost, trustees in November, 1805. The first election held was in March, 1806, at which time Francis King and Samson Crawford were elected Supervisors of Ceres township.

Mr. Keating showed much interest in the organization of the counties in which his lands lay, looking carefully after the townships, that there should be elections duly held according to law, and was zealous to have roads opened and ready means of communication among the various settlements.

In the fall of 1805 he was much engaged in superintending the making of the road down Pine Creek to Driftwood. A road had previously been opened to Canoe Place. These roads, especially that to Driftwood, must have been great undertakings owing to the scarcity of men and teams, and the difficulty of obtaining provisions for both.

In one of Mr. Keatings letters he writes that he is at a loss to know whether to send to Geneseo or Pittsburgh for provisions. The former place was much nearer, but there was no water communication and the roads were bad at the best and often almost impassable. Thomas Bee of Ceres, who worked on the road to Driftwood, lived to be far along in the nineties, ninety-eight, I think, and died in 1882. In the delirium which attended his last sickness, he talked much about this road and the difficulties they encountered in building it, and of the scarcity of provisions for a time.

The first road to Ceres, I think, was made from Port Allegany, then called Canoe Place and Kingsville. It was made directly north to Ceres and came down Mill Creek. I can remember seeing the opening in the trees where the road



reached the clearing afterward made by James King, where he made his tanyard and sunk his vats for his tannery.

Afterwards there was a road made through from Coudersport and came out on the Ceres road near where Mr. Leonard's house now stands, but which instead of being where the present road is, was carried up the hill nearly half way, and came out on the King's Run road south of where the old mill stood. In 1842 a new road was made from King's Corners to Leonard's, the same one that is now used.

There is a pleasant little episode connected with the situation of this old road from Shingle House to Mr. Leonard's, which convinces me that it had been opened previously to 1802, or to August, 1802. Thomas Smith, who came to Ceres in August, 1802, said that he had a dream while still in England that helped him much in deciding to emigrate to America. He dreamed of leaving his own country, of the long ocean voyage, and then of traveling a great distance into the wilderness, when one evening an angel came out of a most gorgeous opening in the sky and pointing downwards said, "This is the place, stop here." Coming to Ceres on the Coudersport road, it was towards sunset when he came along the foot of Mr. Leonard's hill. There was a most beautiful sunset; great golden clouds were piled up in the west over the two points of hills as seen from that place, and which much resembles the Saddleback mountains of Vermont. These hills were situated as he had dreamed of their being when the angel appeared, and it took no great stretch of the imagination to decide that he had come to the place to which he had been directed, and he bought land and





settled in view of the hills and abode there the remainder of his long life.

In 1804 there was some settlement made at Olean and soon after Majors Adam and Robert Hoops began making improvements on a large tract of land afterwards known as the Martin farm. They were from Philadelphia and were men of means and liberal culture, and were enterprising and of great assistance in the early settlement. In that day of magnificent distances they were considered near neighbors to the people of Ceres. Robert had been married to a beautiful woman but it was said that she had died of fright in seeing him strike down a man in altercation with him. Adam had been jilted in his more youthful days and was a decided woman hater. He carried this to such an extreme that he always carried a woollen blanket with him in which he wrapped himself at night, so that he should not touch a sheet that a woman had made or washed. The King girls did not like to have him take his soiled blanket into the clean bed they prepared for him when he visited their father.

The History of Cattaraugus says that Major Robert Hoops died about 1816, and that he is buried in the old cemetery at Olean. Major Adam returned to Philadelphia and died there not long before 1842. Annabella, the youngest of Francis King's daughters, was living in the city at the time and attended his funeral and was the only woman who accompanied the procession to the cemetery. He had a genealogical record that went back to the 9th century. They were of English descent but had no relatives living even in those earlier days of their residence at Olean, except a niece in Virginia to whom this genealogical record was to descend. There is





mention made, in the Cattaraugus history, of a nephew, but as there was no account of him later than at the first survey, he must have died, I conclude. They had a house-keeper whom I remember being called a "yellow woman" or a mulatto woman. Her name was Nancy Furbelow.

Angelica was settled by Philip Church in 1801. To this out-of-the-way place he brought his family, and other families of the better class came, and during the troubles in France, in 1807-8, a number of French refugees found their way thither, among whom were the Du Ponts and Hyde de Neaville. The latter, after the restoration of the French monarchy, was minister to the United States from France from 1816 to 1817. The Du Ponts moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where they established large powder mills. Commodore Du Pont, of our navy during the Rebellion, was one of their descendants.

As early as 1798 the Society of Friends of Philadelphia, had appointed three young men as missionaries to the Indians on the Allegany Reservation. On their first journey, which was made the same year as their appointment, they went to Pittsburg and from thence up to their first place of settlement, which the Indians called Genesinguhta. After some time they removed for a permanent settlement to Tunesassa. As they learned of the road to Ceres from Philadelphia, by way of Williamsport and Coudersport, and of the settlement there, they took that route in their future journeys to and from the eastern part of the state. Their visits were pleasant to the King family, especially so as they belonged to the same Society, and as they



had been used to city life keenly felt their isolation in this, then great wilderness.

Joel Swayne, one of the first three missionaries, married Mary, Francis King's second daughter, in 1814, and giving up his missionary work they removed to the state of Delaware, where they died at an advanced age and left two children, the older of whom has recently passed away, himself well advanced in years, the other is the wife of Wm. Cook of Marion, Iowa.

John King married Hannah Clendenon in 1817. She with her father and mother and her sister Lydia, had been sent to Tunesassa as teachers by the Society of Friends in 1812.

As petroleum or mineral oil has played an important part in the history of this section of country of late years, it may be well to state that Joel Swayne wrote in his diary of May 12, 1798, that in coming up the Allegany from Pittsburgh that they spent a night with James Titus on Oil Creek, and that Mr. Titus told them that he had gathered as much as three barrels of oil in one season, and that he had sold it as high as \$4 per gallon. He gathered it by spreading blankets on the eddies and then taking them up and wringing out the oil. This was the Indian method of gathering it. The oil was highly prized for its medicinal qualities.

From a letter of Francis King to his brother John King of England written in 1806, we gather some information in regard to the country and his views of its possibilities.

He claims that the climate is much more healthful than in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. He is confident that the great thoroughfare from the East to the rapidly growing West will be to the Allegany river and down its waters to the Ohio. He thinks, too, that there



will be much travel from the States to Canada, and that much of it will come through this part of the country. And again there were the great lakes and the route west by way of Presque Isle, now Erie, and Lake Erie. The growing West would need the pine that thickly covered the hills and valleys of the Allegany and its tributaries, and in later years none was more highly prized than that which came from the valley of the Oswayo. His far reaching views were slow of fulfillment, and some of them are still in embryo, especially his belief that Ceres would yet be a city.

Ceres will be on the great thoroughfare from the Atlantic to the Pacific when the second track of the New York and Erie railroad is opened down the Honeoye, as is now being talked of, and which would have been the route of the Erie from the first, but for the narrow policy of the state of Pennsylvania which forced the projectors of the road to keep out of that state and far up into New York before they could find another practicable route. John King accompanied the surveyors, at their request, up the Honeoye, when they came through the first time, which was in 1844, looking for a desirable route for the Erie, as he was known to have a thorough knowledge of the country. He was able to show them the advantages of this route over any other.

Ceres has had much to retard her progress and has not fulfilled Francis King's sanguine anticipations for her. As long as pine timber was abundant little attention was given to farming, which was a serious drawback to the prosperity of the country and left it with a newly settled look when it was much older than many other more flourishing localities.





Olean grew apace, as that was the great rendezvous for the travel going to the West from the New England states. As many as two hundred families had come some winters to wait for the spring floods so that they could go down the Allegany river on rafts of lumber in the spring. Olean lost in a great measure this source of her prosperity when the New York and Erie canal was opened, and for many years after was a dull place. It had a boom in 1837, like many another place, only to sink into greater apathy after the fever of speculation had passed. It continued this way until the building of the Erie railroad brought a growth, which though slow, was continued until the oil business greatly increased its active operations.

There is little to record in many of the years. Mr. Keating was diligently looking after the sale of his lands, and there was much surveying done, which must have been particularly laborious, through the unbroken forests where the men must, after the first few days, do their own cooking, and sleep in hastily improvised camps, which left them much exposed to the weather, whether favorable or not. To Mr. King these trips must have been very trying, as it left his motherless children so much by themselves, with no one to advise them, nor to console them in the anxiety which they must often have suffered for him. His health had been poor for many years, but he lived on until the night of the 9th of October, 1814, when he retired to his bed late in the evening, apparently as well as usual, but was found dead in his bed in the morning. The letter of John King to his brother James, who had gone to the state of Delaware to learn the trade of tanning and currying, is so full of interest, and does so much credit to both his head



and heart, that I take the liberty of inserting it here.

[Copy of a letter from John King to his brother James King, then at Marcus Hook, Delaware county, Pa.]

“CERES TOWN, 9th mo. 16th, 1814.

My Dear Brother—

It is with unspeakable sorrow I have to acquaint thee of the decease of our dear father, who departed this life on the morning of the 10th inst. I was not at home myself, having gone to Tunesassa for seed wheat. Haliday Jackson, Benjamin Cope, and Joseph Harlan, arrived here on the evening of the 9th, on their way to the Indian settlements. They brought several letters with them for our family; among others one from sister Ann, and one from sister Mary, for father. His health was much as usual or rather improving. About 10 o'clock the friends retired to rest; father continued up about half an hour longer. He then went to bed, but appeared in no ways indisposed. Jane remained up about the business of the house until near 2 o'clock. She heard father cough and spit several times, as was usual with him. She then went to bed and slept very sound until she heard the friends stirring about. She then got up, and, on going into the little room, she found father lying on his face, but instead of calling him, she found herself unable to speak. She then went out and informed the friends that she was afraid her father was dead. They immediately examined him and, sorrowful to relate, found him a corpse. He had expired without a single struggle, as the bed clothes were smooth, and himself lying quite straight. We have no doubt but that he was taken in one of those fits to



which he was subject for so many years. H. Jackson told me his opinion was that if any person had been in bed with him they would have known nothing of his decease at the time. Mr. Jackson immediately despatched old Joisa, who was here at the time, to inform me of the sorrowful event, while Benjamin Cope went in search of Smith's Mills, to inform the neighbors there; and Joseph Harlan went to John Bell's, Sr. Robert also went to Samson Crawford's, but, as it happened, neither John Bell, Thomas Smith, nor S. Crawford, were at home, being gone to the west branch of the Susquehanna on business. William Bell and Martha had moved up to the Matilda farm about two weeks before the melancholy event occurred. John Bee went immediately up there and informed them. They hurried down. Most of the neighbors soon collected, but, strange to relate, the Friends could not be prevailed on to stay to the funeral (which was first-day afternoon, the 10th), but proceeded immediately to R. Hoops that evening, leaving the poor orphans in the most distressing situation, having no man about the house, with the exception of William Bell. Could they have given up to stay it would certainly have been a very great satisfaction.

The messenger who went for me did not arrive at Tunesassa until first-day afternoon, about five o'clock, he being very unwell. H. Jackson and company arrived there also about dark in the same evening. I set off the next noon in my canoe, but working too hard, I found myself unable to proceed farther than Killbuck's with the canoe. I therefore left it, but was so much indisposed with a cold I had taken there that I was unable to reach home that day on foot. I arrived the next morning and found them all





well and as much resigned as could be expected. I know not in what manner to proceed. There are many things to take care of here, and also at the Matilda farm. I can not bear the idea of Martha and Jane parting, neither will it do to leave this place at present, and they cannot bear the thought of being left here alone while William is at work at the other place, as I expect to set off the 18th for Muncy to inform sister Mary of the change and to meet John Keating at Williamsport the 24th. Their situation will certainly be very lonesome, but I hope that they will be enabled to bear it with due resignation to Him from whom all blessings flow, and who in His unerring wisdom has a right to take them away in His own time. I expect thee has an idea that the circumstance as it happened had been anticipated by father and us. He mentioned several times to me the idea that he should be taken off suddenly in one of those fits and thought it would likely happen in sleep, as he had been several times attacked when asleep and awoke in great misery. He also expressed his entire resignation to the Great Disposer of events, and said whether he went off suddenly or by a lingering illness he believed it would be well with him hereafter. What a blessed consolation for us his children when we consider that although it is a great loss to us, it is his unspeakable gain, and that the transition from a world of pain and trouble, (of which he had so great a share,) to the heaven of rest and glory made so short and easy. May we all be enabled to follow the good example he has left us, as also to become partakers of the heavenly kingdom. He had lived to raise a large family, and when we began to scatter about on the face of the earth he has gone before and calls on us to follow his





footsteps, that we may be again collected in joy inexpressible in the mansions of the blessed.

Jacob Young rendered every assistance in his power, and certainly deserves the warmest thanks of every branch of the family, and will, I have no doubt, be always remembered with gratitude. He appears to take the loss with as much feeling as if it had been his own father. I have not yet had time to examine, but expect, as father was taken off so suddenly, that he has left no will, but as his accounts generally stand regular, I hope that it will not occasion much difficulty.

I expect to see Joel and Mary at Muncy, and shall consult with them about what is to be done. I am sorry that we are so much scattered about. It would certainly be more agreeable to be near together, so that we could see each other oftener. I am concerned for Robert. He continues very small and weak for one of his age, and is likewise so backward and dull in his learning that I know not what we shall make of him. I know not what kind of situation we may find for him, or where. I expect to write to sisters Ann and Annabella, and acquaint them with the sorrowful news; also to Charles Stow, of Philadelphia. I heard by B. Cope, of the death of S. Dutton. Thomas' situation must be very trying, as also that of Susan. I sincerely sympathize with them in their loss. Please to give my love to them, and inform them of our great loss. Please remember me affectionately to John Hughes and wife, and all inquiring friends. Do not fail to write as soon as possible, and let us know how thee has thy health, and what progress thee makes in the knowledge of thy business, as also in literature. With best wishes for



thy welfare and preservation every way, in  
which brothers and sisters unite, I remain,

Thy affectionate brother,

JOHN KING.

P. S.

Muncy, 9th mo. 22, 1814.

I came to this place this morning, in hopes of seeing Joel and Mary, but am much disappointed by their being at Fishing Creek, at the monthly meeting. I shall go there to-day, but I know not how I shall disclose the sorrowful news. I received a letter from Ann at Jersey Shore. She is just recovering from an intermittent fever. It was written the 20th of last month. Are you not in great fear of the enemy in those parts? I hear that they have taken Washington, and think it likely they will get to Philadelphia also. Thy situation is far from enviable in the present state of affairs. Do Friends suffer much on account of military requisition? How is it with thee? Farewell.

J. K.

The oldest daughter, Ann, had gone to near New York in 1808, and was engaged in teaching and had her youngest sister with her.

Among those who had come into the place were the Youngs, Jacob and Jonathan. The latter left after several years; Jacob remained. In the winter of 1816 Jacob went back to his native state, New Hampshire, and married Betsey George and brought her to Ceres. She proved one of the most useful women that any new place could have. She was strong and well, and ready for any and every emergency, and was often physician, as well as nurse, to the people for miles around her home. Her cheerfulness and assistance would comfort the most sorrowful, and the place would have been poor without



her. Seven out of her nine children lived to have families of their own, but not one of them have been living for many years now. Several of them left children who are still living.

Jacob Young built a saw mill and a grist mill, soon after his marriage, both of which have long been gone to decay. The second dwelling house which he built is still standing and is now owned and occupied by L. J. Austin. His saw mill was on the site of the present old mill known as the George Smith mill. 1753293

Jacob Young came to Ceres in 1808. The last twenty years of his life he was feeble, but still he lived to be over eighty and died of consumption, as did his wife and most of his children.

Mrs. Young had been a teacher before she was married and was eager to have schools and religious meetings here from the first, and her house, with that of William Smith's, was the preacher's home so long as she lived at her old home. For a number of years they lived on their farm on the Genesee road, about a mile above town. Mrs. Young, in addition to all her care for the suffering and sorrowing, did a vast amount of spinning and weaving, and was tailoress and dressmaker. Indeed there was but little that this noble Christian woman did not do that was useful. She shrank from coming to this distant wilderness when Jacob went for her, and tried to persuade him to take some one else, but he would not give up his Rachel for any Leah, no more than the patriarch would, so she was constrained to go with him. He was older than she, and when a boy used to go to her father's (a near neighbor), to hold the pretty little baby, and never ceased to admire her as she developed into girlhood, and it was the supreme





object of his life, after coming to this wilderness, to win her for his wife.

The Crawfords lived at Ceres many years. I can not ascertain in what year they came, but they went down the river to Cincinnati in 1816, where they purchased land and made themselves a home, which was standing, in its original simplicity, as late as 1856, and I think until Mrs. Johnston's death, in 1875. She had not cared to have it changed.

There were three sons, Robert, John and George. They were commission merchants, and becoming wealthy, bought them country seats at Glendale, sixteen miles from the city, where they lived until they passed away. Both Robert and George visited Ceres, and cherished many pleasant memories of their early days spent here. George lived on until the summer of 1887. He was a man beloved and respected and held many places of trust in the city, and also in the church of which he was a member.

The older daughter, Matilda, was about seventeen when they left Ceres. She was a bright, pretty girl. She married one of the Johnston's of Kentucky, a family of much note in that state. She died about 1875, leaving three sons who were all men of good position and honored citizens. She, like her brothers, cherished a warm affection for her old friends at Ceres.

Mary Bell, wife of John Bell, Senior, was one of the notable characters in the early history, and most of the elderly people about the country still remember her, as she lived until 1850. She was a strong, resolute woman and frequently used to take a pail of butter and go to Olean and exchange it for its value in sugar and tea and return the same day, walking both ways. She did this the latter part of the thirties, but



became nearly blind and had to stay pretty closely at home for a number of years before her death. She was noted for her cordial hospitality. She was from Northumberlandshire, and used its peculiar dialect, and was always ready with a "gude coop of tay" for all who came. She was a model of neatness, and her house, though not large, was nicer than any one's else in the early days. It was nicely furnished, because her husband made the furniture, and he was a good workman. This furniture is now highly prized by those who have come into its possession. The house was built of hewed logs and had a framed addition.

With Mary Bell is associated the name of Kitty Hanson, a child whom she had taken from an asylum in Philadelphia. The child had been taken by the city authorities from an old woman who was begging with her, but to whom it was evident she did not belong. She could tell something about her home, and it was believed that both her parents had died of yellow fever, and that she had been stolen by this vagrant woman so that she could the better appeal to the sympathies of people while begging. This girl, after many years, became the wife of William Smith. Through her long life there was always an intense desire to know her own early history, and if she had any relatives. After her death, Mrs. Mann, of Coudersport, wrote a little history of her, which was highly prized by her children, and which I would like to include in this volume, but Mrs. Mann thinks it hardly best. Mrs. Smith was a faithful wife and mother and a true woman.—M. K.

William Lister was another of those who came in 1802. He settled near what is now known as Myrtle, and not far from John Bell, Sr. He,



too, was from England, and had more means to do with than many others. He bought considerable land and it became valuable before his death. He built a small, framed house, where he lived his long life, being much of a recluse, almost a hermit. He never married, though much given to proposing it. It used to be laughingly said that he had proposed to the grandmothers, mothers and daughters, but he had enough good sense not to propose to any one that he would have been ashamed to have taken to England and introduced to his friends there. He had a fine gold watch, an unusual thing in those days, and it is said that he would show it and then say to the lady, "Say yes, and take it." He made a visit to England sometime in the forties, and lost his watch through some sharper in New York, but he found some other way of popping the question, for he kept it up even in the early part of his last sickness. Sometimes it would be, "Shall I send for the Squire, or will you go with me to him?" He had a nephew come to him early in the twenties. This nephew married and bought a farm about a mile above him on the road to Shingle House. Here he at first built a log house, but about 1850 put up a goodly sized frame building, and had a nice home. This nephew, Lister Hargraves, from being a wild, reckless man, was converted as early as 1837, but I think before, and was thereafter an exemplary Christian. His wife was also a Christian woman. He had a large family of children, but they are scattered far and wide, only three remaining in this section at present. Recently the second house he built was burned, but there is a good farm and orchard left to show his industry and hard work. There is scarcely a trace left of William Lister's home, nor of John





Bell's, Sr., and there will not long be of any of the early homes.

In those early days there was neither doctor nor minister. A medicine chest furnished with some medicines, scales and directions, with some surgical instruments formed a part of the pioneers' outfit, and practice, good sense and observation did in this case as it did in most others. Francis King while he lived, and after he passed away his oldest son, came to be relied on for help in sickness and the kindred needs, the ministering to the dying, writing wills, making arrangements for the stricken families, etc., as well as the funeral, and reverently laying the dead in their last resting place, and thanking the assembled neighbors, in behalf of the mourners, for their sympathy and assistance.

After some years there would come an occasional missionary or itinerant preacher of the Gospel, who would preach in the little school-house or in some private house. One of these Mrs. Young used to tell about. Early in her housekeeping in her new house, she was going out with a pail of swill for the pig; when she opened the door she was accosted with, "I'm Mr. Stun, the missionary, and I'm come to preach to you, and the finish of the business is, I want my horse shod." He evidently had learned to be direct in his address. He was kindly welcomed, found old Jeremiah Gray, who had found his way here from the far northeast, Maine I think, and who dealt in iron and forged horse-shoes, etc. He was one of the oddest and most intense Yankees, with a fund of queer expressions which were often laughingly repeated many years afterward.

Captain Slick was perhaps the first cabinet maker, though John Bell, Sr., made some furni-





ture and did it well. A curtained bedstead of his make was one of this writer's heir-looms.—M. W. M. Some of Captain Slick's work is still preserved.

Marriages were sometimes a matter of difficulty. John C. Brevost performed some as the first Justice of the Peace.

Mary Bee, who married Robert Gilbert in 1804 or 1805, went with her mother, Mary Bell, to Philadelphia, where Gilbert's family resided, and was married in Friends' meeting. They lived for awhile in the city but returned to Ceres in 1806.

Mary, Francis King's second daughter, married Joel Swayne, one of the first three employed by the Friends of Philadelphia to teach civilization and Christianity to the Indians on the reservations in the western part of New York. There being no Friends' meeting nearer than Muncy, then in Lyeoming, now in Columbia county, the couple, accompanied by others of the family, made the long journey on horseback, by Williamsport, to that place, where they were hospitably received and enterained at the house of Mercy Ellis, mother of William Cox Ellis, during the time for the announcement and the accomplishment of the ceremony, a period of over two weeks. Their home was thereafter in southern Pennsylvania and in the state of Delaware.

Martha King had been married in the same way and place, to William Bell, a year before. Several years later, two more of these earliest settlers, John Bell and Jane King, were married, but had the ceremony performed by a Justice of the Peace. These two last couples lived and died at Ceres. Both raised large families, the former being chiefly home-keepers, while the descendants



of the latter have almost like Wickliffe's dust, "Spread abroad wide as the waters be."

Mary Bee, who married Robert Gilbert, was early left alone with her four children, Mr. Gilbert having left home for a long journey and it was supposed died without any way of communicating the circumstances of his death to his family. Mrs. Gilbert managed judiciously, bought land near her mother's and was as successful in making a home and living comfortably as were her brothers. She had one son and three daughters. The son lived until 1888, and the youngest daughter, now Mrs. Henrietta Benson, is still living. In the late autumn of 1826, a little girl who lived with a neighboring family came in one morning on an errand. It was cold and she was given a seat near the fire. When it was time for her to go Mrs. Gilbert found her to be in a severe chill, and as she thought unable to go out again in the cold. She grew rapidly worse, was put in bed and carefully nursed. Physicians were scarce and far off, and people often had to go without them, even when sorely needed, but in this case one was summoned from Olean and he pronounced it a case of typhus or typhoid fever. Thomas Gilbert and Thomas Bee were stricken with it, but after many weeks the first three recovered, but two of their faithful nurses, Harriet and Marrienne Gilbert, were taken, for they gave their young lives as the result of their benevolent work. Mrs. Gilbert was a very loving mother, but she was not one who put her hand to the plough and looked back, for years afterward she said to a friend, "I have never regretted taking in that poor, sick, little girl. Mrs. Gilbert was a Christian. Catherine Hanson was still living in her mother's family,



(Mary Bell's,) at the time of her (Mary Gilbert's) conversion, and speaking of it only a short time before her death, said, "That was a real conversion and her life was ever after beautiful from its conformity to the Gospel." Her daughters had imbibed their mother's spirit and were also Christians, and were ready for death's summons. Mrs. Gilbert was quite well educated, a great reader, and an intelligent woman. There were a number of others who had the fever, so that it was a sad time.

John Bell and his wife lived many years in the home they had made at the mouth of the stream still called Bell's Run. He was buried in a little plot of ground on the north shore of the stream, near his wife's grand-daughters, the Gilbert girls. It is now the Myrtle cemetery. He died in 1828. His wife survived him more than twenty years, and the wonderfully strong, vigorous constitution, gave way to many of the ills that beset old age.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, lived to see three of her four sons, who came with them to this country, married and settled around her. One son, Christopher, remained in England and never came to this country. Mrs. Smith was a small woman, very neat, a strict church woman, who kept her holidays according to English custom, and set in her snow-white cap and best dress, keeping Christmas alone with her husband at each return of the holiday, as long as she lived. Their later years were passed with their son William, who built a nice house near where his father's had stood. This house was painted white, and was for many years the only white house for many miles in any direction. Thomas Smith died in 1828; his wife in 1827.





Uncle Billy Smith, a brother of Thomas, came to this country many years after his brother, and died here in 1844. He had lived in New York for a time, and his wife died there. Two of his children visited him after he came to Ceres, but he preferred to stay with his nephews.

John C. Brevost (Bravo) was one of the early settlers that left his mark, though he only remained here a few years. He bought land and built a small house, about half a mile above Ceres. I remember hearing of his having a party at his house on February 29th, and it must have been 1808. He said that he would have one, "One of these odd days," and that was decided to be the oddest one. Mr. Brevost was well educated, a gentleman in his manner, and his leaving was a loss felt by the few dwellers here. He never brought his family here. His land was sold for the benefit of his heirs, I think not far from 1840, and was bought by D. and J. Edwards and Alexander Martin and is now a part of the Case and Chamberlain farms.

Mr. Brevost brought a colored boy with him to do his cooking and housework. When he left "he sold him to William Ayres for \$100, and the further consideration that he should receive a fair, common school education until he was of age, when he should be set free." Sometime in 1808, Ayers moved to the "Keating farm," six miles east of Coudersport, taking this boy with him. His name was Asylum Peters. He was born in Bradford County, in 1793, Asylum township, and the name of the township was given him. "He died at Walter Edgecomb's, Nov. 24, 1880."—History of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter Counties. He was the only slave ever held in Ceres.

M. Generet (his neighbors pronounced it Jan-



dray) was a Frenchman, advanced in years, who lived by himself in a house that he had shingled all over instead of clapboarding. It was nicely done, and showed taste and skill. This house was at the Five Mile, being that distance from the village laid out by Francis King, on the gently sloping hill south of his house. The name of Shingle House still clings to the thriving village that has sprung up near where the house was built. It was about opposite to the mouth of Horse Run, and was still standing sometime in the thirties. M. Generet left his family in Europe. I think that he died here, but can not give the date.

M. Sandal brought a large family, but after a few years they, like the Crawford family, went "down the river."

Most of the early settlers were English of the middle class, and had trades. Francis King, besides being a surveyor, was an engraver on copper for printing. Numerous plates are still in existence of his carving. Thomas Smith was a miller; John Bell a saddle and harness maker; John Bell, Sr., a cabinet maker; and James King a tanner and currier.

The first tannery in the country was built by James King, on Mill Creek, about half a mile from its mouth. He built a good frame building and sunk vats, but hides were scarce and the investment not proving profitable, the business was given up, and he removed to Olean, but returned in 1827 and bought land adjoining John Bell's, where he engaged in farming.

When in course of the war of 1812, so-called, the burning of Buffalo (Buffaloe then) was announced by an Indian runner, who, like Roderick Dhu's Molise, scarcely paused in passing to make a few short sounds, terror was communi-



cated by the Indians (who from those brief words had received quite a history of the event) to the white settlers, some moved away, and others wished to go; but the first comers to the wilderness had found so much kindness and friendliness from their Indian neighbors; such unbroken good faith that they were not alarmed.—M. W. M.

Kittie Hanson, somewhere near this time, received a severe fright. She was a young girl, and was alone in John Bell's house, her home, when two Indians came in, as was the Indian custom, very quietly and without rapping. She could not understand what they said, and they tried to make her know their wants by signs, so they brandished their knives around their own heads, which she supposed meant that they would kill her. She stood in the middle of the not over-large living room, so intensely frightened that she could neither move nor speak. Mr. Bell, very fortunately, came to the house at that, to her, critical time, and the Indians soon made him understand that they wished to grind their knives on his grindstone, which he was very willing that they should do.

The Indians of this section were themselves afraid during the war of 1812, and showed no disposition to harm the whites at any time. They were employed by the early settlers as messengers, mail carriers, etc. The only defect that I ever heard of in their dealings, was that they did not understand the permanence of a sale, but would want what they had sold returned to them after awhile; still there was no quarreling nor serious trouble ever with them.

The following I have copied from an old letter of Robert and Elizabeth Clendenon to their son in Philadelphia. It bears date, May 30, 1812.





They were on their way to the Friends' Mission among the Indians at Tunesassa on the Alleghany, and their daughters Hannah and Lydia accompanied them and were both teachers there for sometime. They came from the neighborhood of Philadelphia and were fifteen days on the journey, traveling all the distance with horses and wagon until they reached the mouth of the Oswayo, from whence they floated down the river by raft, their horses being taken by land. They had come up the Susquehanna as far as Williamsport and soon after crossed over on to Pine Creek. They stopped at William Ayers', not far from Coudersport, who, with his family, were for some years the only white people in Potter county. John Keating had induced him to go on to his lands and make a clearing, paying him ten dollars per acre for clearing and giving him also what he could raise upon it for several years. It was very hard work making a settlement at first, as they had to go forty or fifty miles for provisions, and through an almost trackless wilderness, over rugged mountains, and often through raging streams.

The Clendenons crossed the Oswayo opposite the Crawford's at Five Mile (now Shingle House), or near it. They stopped at John Bell's, Sr., where they dined and then went on to Francis King's, but on their way to the latter place met Joel Swayne, one of the Friends from Tunesassa, who had come to meet them, and had built the raft on which they were to descend the Alleghany to Tunesassa. The raft was ready, so that Monday they put their wagon upon it and started on their watery way.

The following item of interest is given in this letter: "Two young men who had built a saw-mill and were carrying on their work with





alacrity, were burned out the day before they arrived at Ceres. Their names were Watson and Smith. That day the water failed, and to ascertain the cause they went some distance up the race. While they were absent the mill caught fire, and from it the stables and house, and it being a dry day and the buildings mostly of pine, they, with their contents, were soon all destroyed. There were several barrels of flour burned, and, as it had been brought all the way from Pittsburg, must have been a very serious loss.

Robert Clendenon speaks of Francis King as a very kind man; that he had cleared much land and that grass grew luxuriantly, but that there was not much grain raised. As he was absent much of the warm weather on his long surveying trips, he could not have looked after his farming as carefully as it needed.

Robert Clendenon further mentions that Francis King had both a sawmill and a gristmill and that they were not doing much, from which I conclude that the mill which was burned was near the present site of George Smith's old mill. The road from Ceres to Millgrove, or the mouth of the Oswayo, was the worst they had passed over in their long journey, and probably was not much used.

The object of the Friends in their missions to the Indians seems to have been first to civilize, then to Christianize them. The Indians loved and trusted them, as well they might, for they sought neither their lands nor wealth in any form; but few of them ever embraced the simple faith of the Quakers. There is no civilizing agency equal to the Gospel. The Moravians, who, in their simplicity and kindness, were perhaps the most like the Quakers, fully proved this



in their world-wide missions, and the Greenlanders and Icelanders, as well as the Hottentot and Caribee Indians and the natives of the West India Islands, and the Eskimo of Labrador and recently of Alaska, have gladly received the Gospel as the Way of Life, and then have been eager to adopt the civilization of their teachers. Inducing them to adopt the symbol of the cross would have worked no such transformation as the story of the love of Christ has, when it has been received into the heart, as we have abundant proof among the Mexican Indians, as well as those of South America.

There was a remarkable snow storm. I think it must have been in the early twenties. While I cannot remember the year I remember distinctly the month and day from often hearing it given, May 19th. The snow on that and the previous night fell until it was two feet deep. In the course of three days it was mostly gone, but a flood followed. While it lasted it caused much suffering to the cattle, horses and sheep, as no one was prepared for such a storm.

Another remarkable snow storm occurred on the 29th of September, 1842. This coming while trees were in full leaf broke down very many entirely, or in part. All the latter part of the night of the 28th and through the 29th the snow fell, and it was distressing to hear the breaking of trees in the woods and orchards. There was no fruit that year, or several following years, or it would have caused still greater damage to the trees.

Thomas Smith and his descendants:

There has already been a brief memorial of John, who died in 1840. He was a man of much enterprise and energy. His oldest son, William M., married Mary Silsby, of Friendship, and he



built the house where F. M. Van Wormer now lives. He had three children, but they all died. He himself died in 1886, and several years after his wife died, completely obliterating the family.

Of the second son, George N., there has already been mention made. He was one of the few that, with the exception of several years, had always been a resident of the place, and his wife still lives here, and also his daughter, but his son moved to Olean some years since.

Riley, the third son, after spending many years away from here—latterly in Richburg—has returned within a few years and bought the place on the Olean road built, and for some years occupied by H. A. Rose, which he has improved materially, making it a pleasant home place. He has two sons married, and living at long distances away. His only daughter is the wife of R. R. Robarts, and with her child are living at her parents' home.

Almira, the oldest daughter, married V. P. Carter, in 1842, and died in 1874, leaving three children, Frances, the oldest, becoming the wife of Frank Commerford and removing to Indiana, where she still lives, though Mr. Commerford has died and she is again married. She has three daughters. Ella, the second daughter, married John J. Robarts. She died in 1875, and left one daughter. Henry, the only son, is living in Missouri.

Laura died many years since, but Martha Jane is still living, and on her mother's old place. She has two daughters, the older the wife of C. H. Gleason, and the younger a successful teacher.

John Smith's wife was Lucy Mott. After remaining a widow several years, she married Joseph Morse, Sr., who was for a time one of the





Associate Judges of McKean county. She died in 1878.

William Smith had three sons and three daughters. His wife was Kittie Hanson, who has elsewhere been mentioned as having been brought here by Mary Bell, wife of John Bell, Sr., in the early part of the century. Her parents were supposed to have been victims of the yellow fever, as she had memories of a pleasant home, but no relatives ever came to claim her. She married well, and was happy in a home of her own, where she passed away peacefully in 1872. Her husband died in 1875, at the age of seventy-eight. He was partially blind for many years, and almost entirely the last several years, but was patient and cheerful under his affliction.

Christopher, the oldest son, was for many years one of the proprietors of the Oswayo House, but sold out and engaged in merchandise, which he continued until his sudden death in 1878. His wife was Caroline Warren, of Cuba. She is still living, though in feeble health. They had but one child, a daughter, now the wife of C. B. Cleveland.

William Hanson, the second son, married Caroline, oldest daughter of John Holley. They moved to Allentown, where William H. died in 1884. He left two children, a daughter and son.

John Wesley, the third son, married Florence, the second daughter of John Austin. They removed to Olean in 1889. They have two sons, and their removal was regretted almost as much for their boys' sake as for their own; but there is so little business here that those who have boys need to look up some place where there is better opportunities in the way of obtaining a livelihood, as well as facilities for educating both boys and girls.



Harriet, oldest daughter of William Smith, married Joseph Trumbull in 1844, and died in 1866, leaving two daughters, the older, Nellie, the wife of Luther J. Austin and living on the Young's place, the second house built by Jacob Young, and occupied for many years by his family. The other, Stella, married Henry Otto, of Farmers Valley, and lives there.

Isabella, the second daughter, married A. C. Hovey, and is still living. They have two daughters, Minnie, wife of J. J. Robarts, and Maud, who is fitting herself for a teacher.

Lucy, the third daughter, married G. B. Gillett, of Batavia, and have been residents of Olean since in 1881. They have two children, a son and daughter, the son having a large printing establishment, and the daughter is the wife of D. F. Randolph. The removal of Mr. Gillett's family from Ceres was much regretted, but so long as there is so little business to afford scope for the ambition of the young, as they come on the scene of action, it will be so. It is a pity that those whose narrow policy in keeping out business plants, could not have foreseen this.

Of Henry Smith's large family but four remain, three daughters and one son. Henry married for his first wife, Clarissa George, a sister of Mrs. Jacob Young, who had come from New Hampshire to visit her. After a few years she died leaving three small children, the second of whom is still living—Elizabeth, the widow of Arnestus Deitz. Her home is with one of her daughters in Minneapolis. She has three daughters and one son living. Her sister Mary, the oldest of her father's children, has also two children living.

Henry Smith married for his second wife Susan Palmer, by whom he had six children, two of whom are still living—Lucy Emily, wife of Nel-



son Peabody, of Washburn, Illinois, and Harriet, the youngest, who has a pleasant home with her sister. The second wife dying in 1848, he married Mary Ann Rice, who died in 1893. She had two children, one of whom, a daughter, died many years since; but the son lives on the old place, and is a successful farmer and respected citizen. Indeed, all of Henry Smith's children have done him honor. Henry Smith died in 1878 at the age of eighty.

William Bell, son of John Bell, Sr., who came with him to this country, married in 1813, Martha, third daughter of Francis King. They had nine children, three of whom have died. Five are living in the vicinity, and the second son in Kansas. The oldest daughter, the widow of William Weber, lives with her two daughters in Sardinia, near Buffalo, N. Y.

William Bell was a man of much energy and industry, as his large farm showed. After Francis King's death he bought part of what had been his farm, and soon built what must have been considered a nice house for the times. This he occupied until 1842, when he built the house still occupied by a part of his family. He was noted for his genial hospitality, and was prominent in the county for many years, and usually held some office. He died in 1870 at the age of eighty. His wife was one of the sweetest, gentlest women, that ever graced a home. She lived until 1885, when she passed away at the age of ninety-five and one month, having attained the greatest age of any the residents of Ceres, with the exception of Thomas Bee.

John Bell, Jr., was the first settler on the New York side of the line. He took up land of the Holland Land Co. in 1817, and in 1818 built a large house, for the times, of hewed logs. In





December of the same year he married Jane, fourth daughter of Francis King. In this house their thirteen children were born, twelve of whom lived to maturity, six sons and six daughters, the oldest, a son, dying in his infancy. In 1846 he built, across the road from the old house, the house now occupied by R. R. Bell. Here he lived until 1875, when he passed quietly away, his wife having died two years before him. He was a hardworking, industrious man, much more intelligent than the ordinary settlers, and eager that his children should be well educated. His wife was a woman remarkably well fitted for pioneer life, seldom being otherwise than cheerful and hopeful, and with the wonderful ability to find some resource out of the unnumbered perplexities that would constantly arise. She died at the age of seventy-seven.

When the log house was built the road was near it, but on account of its overflowing in high water, it was moved to its present location, until near the brook, when it was taken a few rods up the hill, but was again changed, in the latter part of the forties or early fifties, to its present place.

Rowland R. Bell, the youngest son, now occupies the old homestead, and being a good farmer, the place continues to improve under his occupancy, and there are probably few better farms in this section. The hard work of the father and sons shows in the beautiful meadows and hillsides and the large orchards. The work of removing the pine stumps was a formidable undertaking, but they were so slow to decay that it was necessary to do it. The patent stump machine, and later dynamite, have pretty well cleaned most farms, but the stump fences built of them will long remain their memorial.





The first orchards that were set out have had to be replaced by new ones which are yielding more and better fruit.

Four of the six children of John Bell who are still living, have their homes west of the Rocky mountains.

Mary, the second daughter, married Lafayette Cartee of Coudersport, and removed to Oregon in 1855. She died in 1862, leaving four young children. Her brother Welding and his wife, who were living in California at the time, went to their care, and Mrs. Bell remained with them until they were grown. They are all married now, and are useful citizens. Their father has died within a few years.

Caroline Bell, the oldest daughter went West in 1879, and has kept house for her brothers, Welding and Wilson, since that time at Lewiston, Idaho.

Mrs. Ledyard went to San Jose, California, in 1876, accompanied by her two younger children. Her older son, Henry C., was already established there as a dentist, though he frequently made long journeys and became a noted traveler. He had, when quite young, accompanied his father on one of his trips to Central America. From California he went to the Sandwich Islands and Australia, later to the Philippine Islands, and spent some time in China, when he returned and married Lizzie, daughter of Dr. Corey of San Jose. He soon returned to China, and went from there to Siberia, where he spent a summer, when, with his wife and little boy, he made the overland journey to St. Petersburg in the winter of 1880. Not finding the climate healthful there, he went in less than a year to Constantinople, where he remained for some years, when he returned to the United States, visiting most of



the cities of southern Europe and making a tour of the British Isles. He removed to Los Angeles, where he intended to establish himself permanently, but died in less than a year, from pneumonia. He left three children, who, with their mother, live in San Jose. Frank K. Ledyard, his brother, learned the dental business of him and has for many years been a prominent dentist in San Jose. He, too, married a daughter of Dr. Corey, and his mother and sister live with him. May, the only daughter living, is principal of the San Jose Kindergarten Training School. Mrs. Ledyard, after many sorrows from the death of husband and children, is happy in being near, or with, her remaining children and grandchildren.

Robert Bell, the fourth son of John Bell, after spending many years on the Pacific coast, returned to Ceres in 1869 and married Helen Richardson, of Cuba. A few months after he accompanied Dr. T. C. Ledyard on his last trip to Central America, being also a dentist. They made an extensive and successful tour, and had accumulated so much gold that it excited the cupidity of their guides, who had been furnished by a friend and were considered reliable. They were to cross that day the high range of mountains separating them from the eastern coast, where they were to embark for home. It was to be their last hard day of travel, and they were especially happy in the thought of their homecoming, when first one, then the other, were cut down, almost simultaneously, by their guides. They were well armed, but were taken off their guard. Afterwards their bodies were found and buried, and a pile of stones put over them, a cross set up, and after long weary weeks of waiting for their return, there came a letter from the



American Consul, at the nearest seaport, announcing their death.

Willson Bell had come from Idaho on account of his mother's serious illness, and the next spring he went to bring the bodies home for burial, and if possible to recover some of the money and other valuables they had with them. One of the robbers and murderers had been arrested and held for a time, but had again been allowed his liberty; so that neither money nor other valuables could be found, with the exception of some of their dental tools and a few articles of clothing. Owing to the unsettled condition of the country he could not even bring their bodies home. The highest prized thing obtained was Dr. Ledyard's diary, containing the most loving words to his wife, the last words having been penned only the night before his death.

Robert's wife had a baby girl born three weeks after the sad news was received. It lived to be seven months old when it, too, died, leaving the bride of a year and a half a widow and childless. She moved to Olean, where, being a superior musician, she has supported herself by teaching music.

Frank, the fifth son of John Bell, died April 1, 1894. He had been a brave soldier, but was sadly mutilated by rebel bullets, and suffered almost as much, if not quite so, from rebel boasting at Washington, where he was an agent in the Pension Bureau. He left a wife, one daughter and three sons.

#### POST OFFICES.

The first post office was established at Ceres in October, 1817. John King was the first postmaster. The commission signed by Postmaster General Meigs is now in the possession of





Mrs. M. W. Mann, of Coudersport. The next year William Bell was appointed J. King's successor, he having resigned to accept the appointment of Dept. Surveyor. In 1821 Thomas Smith was appointed post master and held the office for about nine years, when John King was again appointed and held the office for some years. It was finally removed to the village of Ceres and to the New York side, where it has been held ever since.

From 1820 to 1824 the mail was carried by a boy on horse-back from Jersey Shore to Olean once in two weeks, the distance between the two places being 109 miles. This boy, Moses Haney, continued to be the mail carrier, either by wagon or on horse-back, up to 1838 or 1839. He was one of the most faithful and unfailing of carriers and was commissioned with numberless errands all along his route.

After 1832 a two-horse stage ran once a week over the route, and after another four years twice a week, but there were some irregularities. As near as I can learn the mail was not carried oftener than twice a week until after the N. Y. & E. R. R. was completed in 1851, when Charles Rounds began running a daily stage from Ceres to Olean which carried the mail. A little later a daily stage from Ceres to Friendship was also established and kept up until 1879 when a narrow guage railroad was built from Olean to Friendship through Ceres, thus connecting Ceres at two points with the N. Y. & E. R. R.

Charles Rounds did much to make Ceres readily accessible to the traveling public, as he was noted for his promptness and reliability and made his trips regularly where probably no other man would have done it. This was the more noteworthy as he had but one arm and



had often to shovel snow and tread the road for his horses over the Notch Hill, one of the most difficult roads to travel on account of the snow drifting into it constantly. It was much easier to communicate with Olean and Friendship and places intermediate before the mails were carried on the railroad.

#### FRANKLIN LIBRARY COMPANY.

In the winter of 1836 the subject of having a circulating library was agitated, with so much earnestness, that a meeting was called, trustees appointed, and an act of incorporation secured which was recorded March 3, 1836. Daniel Edwards was chosen chairman, and Paul Crandall secretary. At first eight trustees were chosen: Henry Chevalier, John King, William Bell, William P. Stillman, John Smith, Paul Crandall, John Edwards and Ebenezer D. Bliss. The shares were two dollars each, and the tax upon a share twelve and one-half cents per year. There were nearly seventy shares sold. Over one hundred dollars had been raised by subscription before the act of incorporation was sought, so that as soon as possible they bought books and had them in circulation, and kept up the library for twenty-five years, when the books were distributed among the patrons. Henry Chevalier made the greater part of the early purchases of the books. John Keating, of Philadelphia, made a liberal donation; also Adam Waldie, of the same city. The books, though valuable, were published at low rates, so that there were a much larger number than could be supposed possible with the funds raised. Among these books were Rollins' Ancient History, Franklin's Works (6 vols.), Irving's Works (5 vols.), Goldsmith's Animated Nature (4 vols.),



Byron Works (8 vols.), Plutarch's Lives (4 vols.), Waverly Novels, History of France (4 vols.), History of England (9 vols.), Lardner's Cyclo-pedia, Milton's Poems, Cowper's Poems, Dick's Works, and many others. The few who kept their dues paid were greatly interested and benefited by the varied reading which this library afforded. There were no daily papers in circulation, nor even semi-weekly, for many years after the library was incorporated. It was a great pity that it was ever allowed to be given up. There has never been a general library in the place since.

#### HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT CERES.

The earliest settlers, the Kings, were Friends; so also were the Bells, who came four years later. Beside these there were John Watson and his wife, who were here for a few years, and whom we conclude were especially devoted Christians; and William Lister, who came about the same time that the Smiths did. He had a nephew, who came here before the twenties, who had been brought up a Friend, but who probably took little interest in religious matters.

This little company had frequent visits from the Friends, who were missionaries among the Indians on the Allegany river, until more direct routes were opened by which they could reach their fields of labor. Then for many years none came; but early in the forties a delegation of four or five Friends came from Philadelphia. They held meetings and tried to have a Friend's meeting established here. It was kept up for a time at the house of John King, but was allowed to die out. After a time some other delegations came. Once there was preaching by them in the church, at another time at Mary Bell's, at or





near what is now known as Myrtle. Then for many years none came. The last delegation came in 1864. They held no meetings, and apparently gave up the oversight of the few who still regarded themselves as members of the Society.

The itinerant Methodist found his way here before 1820, but how much earlier I can not ascertain, but probably several years, as the one previously mentioned as having come to Jacob Young's and speaking of himself as "the missionary," would imply that they were supposed to have some knowledge of those who were sent out to preach the Gospel through this section of country.

The Smith family belonged to the Church of England, and of course neither affiliated with the Friends nor the Methodists. Mrs. Young was an earnest Baptist before she came here and sought to continue so. There was a Mrs. Reed who lived in "the house on the hill," and wore a plain black bonnet, made like those the Friends wore. She was a Methodist. Later Mrs. Lull came, and she wore the same style of bonnet. She must have come early in the thirties.

There were also a few Seventh Day Baptists who must have come about the same time, or a little before. Mrs. Lull had several daughters who either came with her or soon after. They were also Methodists. Elder Henry Green of Little Genesee held a series of meetings during which there were a number of conversions. These meetings were held for a time in Wm. Smith's house. There was only the small school-house with its fire place for any public gathering in the winter time. In the summer a barn could be seated and used. Among the converts at this time, were Jacob Young, Wm. Smith and wife,





Henry Smith and wife, Laura Phelps, wife of Isaac Phelps, Mrs. Daniel Edwards, Mrs. John Edwards, John Smith and wife and others whose names cannot now be ascertained.

There were revivals the winter of 1833 from Friendship to Hinsdale, but how many joined at Ceres I do not know as there is no record, though Ceres (then Smith Settlement) is mentioned.—[Conable's Hist. of Gen. Con.

Mrs. Lull, Mrs. Young and Mrs. William Smith and others wished to join some church, but not the Seventh Day Baptist, and Mrs. Lull, being already a Methodist, proposed that they have a class organized by a Methodist minister. There was none nearer than Friendship where one had an engagement once a month. Mrs. Lull offered to undertake to get him to come here. To do this she probably had to walk to Friendship and back. She was successful in her mission and on January 4th, 1832, a class was organized.

I do not know the number in the class, but most of those who were converted at that time; also Mrs. Young, Mrs. Lull, and probably some of Mrs. Lull's daughters. Henry Smith and wife joined the Seventh Day Baptists, as she had been brought up in the faith of that church.

There was a protracted meeting held in Daniel Carr's large, new barn in 1834, in which there were a number of conversions and accessions to the little class.

In 1837 there was another meeting held for several weeks. This was in Clark Stillman's barn, which was on the right hand of the road going south over the bridge and but a little way from it. The converts were quite numerous and the meetings were continued in the Pennsylvania schoolhouse for weeks after they were closed in



the barn. Among the converts at this time were Wm. Weber and wife, Amos, Lucy and Clarissa Young, and I think Lister Hargraves and wife, and many others whose names are lost. These meetings were conducted by a Methodist minister of the name of Loomis Benjamin who was regularly appointed minister for a circuit that included Bolivar, Friendship, Belvidere, on the east, and Portville on the west.

He formed the plan of building a church and worked diligently to carry it out. The people, generally, and the church members in particular, were poor, but it is astonishing to know with what liberality they contributed. After the church was completed the pews were sold. This was hardly according to Methodist usage, and grieved the minister sadly who had worked so hard to build. Those who had subscribed turned their subscriptions towards the price of their pews. Though it is well on to sixty years since, some still hold their pews with the same tenacity they do their farms, and as the pews were deeded, and the deeds recorded the same as for their homesteads, they undoubtedly have the right to do so, but pewed churches are not an intelligent exhibition of the spirit of Christianity, and are often the cause of persons staying away from church who have no seats there. It was so here.

John Smith gave the land on which the church was built. It is partly in Pennsylvania and partly in New York. He also assisted liberally in furnishing material for building. He died the next summer after it was built, and his was the first funeral held in it. He was greatly mourned.

Though the first subscriptions were made in 1838, with such energy was the work prosecuted that in the fall of 1839 the church was dedi-



cated. It was painted outside and in, and with much graining in imitation of curled maple; the pews on the outside, down the aisles and front of them and pulpit, being finished up in this way. The pews were made with doors and had fastenings of little brass buttons. These doors were retained until the church was made over for the first time in 1864. The high pulpit had been removed before, the circular altar rail and platform were removed then, also the gallery, which occupied the north end of the church. The two little vestibules were then prepared for entrance, but when the church was again repaired on the interior, these were closed on the outside and remain so. A bell was put in the church in 1862, or thereabouts, and blinds to the windows not far from that time. So many changes have been made that but little remains as it was at first, excepting the walls, floor and steeple. It has been repainted on the outside two or three times. The addition built on to it in 1890, during the pastorate of Rev. J. S. Brown has been very helpful in Sunday School work. There were several improvements made while Rev. W. F. Farnham was pastor; the warming of the church by gas, and the changing of the seats so as to have the main aisle down the middle of the church, and restoring the front doors to their original place, were among these.

Probably the largest church membership at any time was after the revival of 1843, but as it was about the time of the coming up of the Millerite excitement, when the second coming of Christ was looked for on a set day in the March following, many fell back when they found that the world was not to be burned then.

In 1847 there were a number of conversions, and again in 1851, but not many at any one





time until the beginning of 1862, when they were numerous, but through outside influences not many joined the church. Again in 1873 there were a good many converts. Since then there has been a gain now and then, so that the membership is now larger than at any time during the sixties or seventies, and perhaps the eighties. The church has had very much to contend against, there being sometimes foes within as always foes without, but has always had more or less faithful, earnest members, who have worked for the best interests of the church and community, notwithstanding all the opposition they were called to bear.

The young at the present time cannot credit how large the audiences were in the early years after the church was built, nor of the crowds that came to quarterly meetings. The circuit extended to Friendship and beyond, and I think Friendship was the home of the minister who preached here. As early as 1847 there was a resident minister at Bolivar, but none at Ceres until the parsonage was built by Rev. William Weber in the fall of 1866. The circuit was separated from Bolivar at the Conference in 1866, and extended after a year or more, to Oswayo.

For several years there were two ministers appointed who were to alternate in the work, changing pulpits every other week. This proving burdensome, it was given up. The minister at Ceres preached at Honeoye and Shingle House. After a number of years Honeoye and Shingle House were set off from Ceres circuit and Bell's Run taken on, and this arrangement still continues.

Among the earliest ministers whom I can recollect were Bush, McKinster, Eaton, Benjamin, Eaton, Smith, Hoyt, Burlingame, Goodell,



Harris, Kennard, Mason, Rooney, Pratt, Robert Thomas, Roberts, Hood, Delamater, Chamberlayne, Potter, Rogers, Pierce, Weber, Alexander, Pierce, Guernsey, Torrey, Patterson, A. B. Kelley, Post, Blanchard, Farnham, Brown, E. M. Kelley, Irwin and Carryer. Eaton and Pierce were each sent here at two different times.

Among the Presiding Elders were Hemingway, Eliezer Thomas, A. D. Wilbor, Kingsley, Burlingham, Chambers, Ripley, Tuttle, E. A. Rice, Watson, L. A. Stevens, O. S. Chamberlayne, Bissell and Latimer. Eliezer Thomas went to California to edit *The Pacific Christian Advocate*. He was after appointed by Grant a Peace Commissioner to the Modocs, and was by them shot down while carrying a flag of truce to them.

As there was no other church building here, some persons had contributed towards building this who were not Methodists, or whose preferences did not incline them that way; notably among whom were Henry Smith, a Seventh day Baptist, F. W. Leonard, a Presbyterian; Wm. Bell and Robert King, Friends; Lewis Wood a Universalist and John Keating a Catholic; (\$20)—there was a clause put in the deed giving the privilege of using it to other denominations when the Methodists had no appointment there, and it has always been freely used by whoever wished it.

Account of the sale of slips in the church, 1839.

No.	Name of Purchaser.	Price.	Paid.
1	L. Potter.....	\$45.00.....	Rent, \$ 5.00
2	William Smith.....	45.00.....	45.00
3	William Weber.....	45.50.....	45.00
4	Lemuel Smith.....	36.50.....	36.50
5	Darius Wheeler.....	38.00.....	38.00
6	Alexander Martin.....	38.00.....	38.00
7	Cyrus Cooper.....	34.50.....	34.50



8	Daniel Karr.....	30.50.....	30.50
9	Lister Hargraves.....	28.00.....	18.00
10	Veranus Ackerman....	26.50.....	26.50
11	Joseph Rork .....	20.00.....	20.00
12	Robert King.....	20.00.....	20.00
13			
14	Loyal Stephens.....	41.00.....	—
15	Henry Smith.....	45.50.....	45.50
16	Cyrus Cooper.....	49.50.....	29.50
17	Hiram Wilson.....	53.00.....	53.00
18	Luman Rice.....	37.50.....	37.50
19	William Smith.....	61.00.....	61.00
20	Myron McCord.....	60.00.....	60.00
21	John Smith.....	58.00.....	58.00
22	F. W. Leonard.....	54.50.....	54.50
23	Samuel Eastey.....	49.50.....	49.50
24	William Bell.....	44.00.....	44.00
25	J. Deitz and M. King.	41.00..by M.K.	5.00
26	.....	39.00.....	—
27	.....	20.00.....	—
28	Edward Steenrod.....	20.00.....	20.00
29	Benjamin Perkins....	27.00.....	27.00
30	Russel Cooper.....	28.00.....	28.00
31	.....	36.00..... Rent,	5.00
32	.....	38.00.....	—
33	Nelson Peabody.....	44.00.....	44.00
34	Jacob Young.....	39.50.....	—
35	Samuel Eastey.....	42.00..B'ght ½	42.00
36	.....	45.00..... Rent,	3.00
37	Harvey Bridge.....	45.00..... Rent,	—
38	.....	45.00.....	—

\$1480.50      \$1023.50

The slips were prized at.....	\$1480.50
Received from this sale.....	1023.50
The expense of building.....	1208.25
Bible and hymn book .....	4.50
Lamps.....	10.00
Leaving a debt of.....	199.75



William Smith assumed this debt after his brother John's death.

There were some subscriptions where slips were not bought or taken in payment. Wheeler and Martin paid \$6 more than the price of their slips; William Scott paid \$8 and John Keating \$20, as has already been mentioned, and Robert Rork \$3.

The stoves, with their long reaches of pipe, must have been a large bill, but they are not mentioned.

(I have not been able to find the original ledger containing these accounts so there will probably be some changes to make when it is found.)

The Methodist Church at Portville was dedicated in 1846, and after that, though many attended the Quarterly Meetings, they did not come to the usual services. A number there subscribed largely, more than they are credited with on the sale of pews. I have only a little record to draw upon, which was drawn from a ledger which has not been found. Luman Rice, Lemuel Smith and Darius Wheeler each subscribed \$50, also Hiram Willson, and from what I remember hearing about it I have no doubt they all paid their subscriptions.

Before the church was built a Sunday School had been kept up for a number of years in the schoolhouse on the New York side of the line. Mrs. John Eastey and Mrs. Lull were the principal teachers, but I can ascertain little more about it. After the church was dedicated it was held there. William Austin, who was a local Methodist minister and who had recently moved into the place, superintended it for a number of years; then William Austin moving away, William Weber took charge, and after him a woman by the name of Coon; but Amos Young superin-





tended it for the longest time of any one, as nearly as I can recollect between twelve and fifteen years. His brother-in-law Harvey Tillotson took charge for a time, but after the revival in 1862, B. H. Call superintended it the greater part of the time for eight or ten years. He was followed in a few years by M. F. Riley who superintended it for several years, but C. A. Warner superintended for most of the time for eleven years. After the church was built the Sunday School was kept up summer and winter with the exception of one or two winters.

The school was not large, but there was not the difference between those earlier years and the later that we might expect. There were excellent teachers which helped to make it a power for good in the place. Soon after the church was dedicated, Mary King, now Mrs. M. W. Mann, of Coudersport, became one of the teachers, also Eloisa A. Dutton, afterwards Mrs. Joseph Mann, who was a teacher for some time on the Pennsylvania side of the line, and their husbands also taught some, but not as long as they. Caroline Bell and Mrs. Ledyard both taught for many years. The Young girls, Lucy, Clarissa and Charlotte, were all teachers and so was Janette King for a number of years. Amos Young was, after his conversion, always a teacher or superintendent while here. Mrs. Andrus was for many years a faithful teacher. Mrs. Gillett taught for a number of years, but none longer or more faithfully than Mrs. John Holly. Mrs. J. A. Smith and Mrs. Caroline Smith were faithful standbys for many years, and Mrs. Van Wormer was for years an efficient teacher, as was also Mrs. Boothe, and later Kittie Smith, Laura Booth and others did good work. In recalling those who worked I am sur-



prised at the number I recall while I am conscious that I am omitting some. For years Mrs. Simon Briggs taught and some of the time superintended.

#### SCHOOLS.

It was not until the place had been settled a good many years that any school was taught. Francis King sent first one then another of his children to Philadelphia for a time. The older three had been to school in England and were never sent to Philadelphia or elsewhere. They must have improved their advantages while in England, for Ann, the oldest daughter, went to the vicinity of New York and taught for many years in a private seminary. She took her youngest sister with her and educated her.

There was a little schoolhouse a little north of where William Smith's house still stands. It had a fireplace but no stove. Mrs. Mann thinks that Mrs. Young was instrumental in having this built as she was one who stimulated all to good work. She had been a teacher before her marriage, and having children of her own, must have felt very eager for their education. She was married and came here in 1816; so this little building must have been put up early in the twenties. Mrs. Mann thinks in 1823 or perhaps a year later. So far I have not been able to ascertain who taught the first school in it. Miss Susan Richardson of Bolivar taught several terms. Lydia Chevalier came into this part of the country in 1826. She taught one or more terms in what was known as "the house on the hill." As her education was good, it must have been rare good fortune to secure her services as teacher. Deborah Cambia, a widowed daughter of Mrs. Lull, taught in both this small schoolhouse and in the larger, which was built in 1835, Mrs.



Mann thinks. She says she attended a writing school taught by Mr. Skinner in the first schoolhouse. The present schoolhouse was built in 1855. It has not been used for the past three years as the children from that side of the creek attend the union school on the New York side, which is partially graded. Persons who have had no experience in fireplaces could hardly realize how uncomfortable it must have been for scholars who had walked a mile through deep snow where there was little path, to try to get warm or dry, when often there would be no chance to get very near it before the house was well warmed in the afternoon, or not very well warmed at any time of the day, when the weather was windy or very cold. It is not a wonder that some had life long illness fastened upon them there.

Eddy T. Pratt who had taught the summer school of 1834, taught a fall term the same year in William Smith's house, in an upstairs room. Beside these teachers, Edwin Stillman, of Alfred, taught one summer and Mary King another. After a little, John S. Mann taught one or more terms, and his brother Joseph, several winters. Eloisa A. Dutton, afterwards Mrs. Joseph Mann, taught several summers. Later Matilda Everett, Maria Porter and Miss Abigail Maxson should be especially mentioned, and in 1844-5 John Mann, father of John S. and Joseph, taught a winter term. He and his sons had for many years kept a private seminary at Mannington, near Montrose, Pa., and were a prize for a country district school to obtain. The young people could have as good advantages here as if they went away to some larger place to attend school. It is the teacher generally who makes the school. President Garfield said he wanted no better college than to have





President Mark Hopkins, of Williams College, on one end of a log and to be himself on the other end.

There must have been some other teachers earlier than any mentioned, it would seem, or Miss Susan Richardson is the one to whom reference is made. The trustees had to conduct the examinations to test the applicants efficiency, and, after going through with the legal requirements several times, were inclined to make light of it, and so when she came before them they could think of nothing wiser to ask her than the impertinent question, "Did you ever have a beaux, and are you afraid of thunder?" They gave her a certificate duly signed.

On the New York side of the village the school-house was built as early as 1833, but it may not have been used before the winter of 1833-4. Hiram Willson was the first teacher, and taught for two if not for three winters. He was a student from the seminary at Lima, and was regarded as a superior teacher. As penmanship was a matter of much importance when there were no copy books and the teacher had to write all the copies, and make the pens, too, of goose quills, it was a serious drawback to Mr. Willson that his hand trembled so that he was not a good penman.

After Mr. Willson, Edward T. Pratt taught a summer term, Julia Main, Deidamia Green, Barton Edwards, Sophronia Burdick, Tacey Babcock, Sardinia Wells, Harriet Maxson, Harriet Nye, Abigail Maxson, Olive Forbes, Armina LeSuer, &c., a list, like the children say, "too numerous to mention." Miss Maxson taught first in the summer of 1844. The Edwards, John and Daniel, were generally among the three trustees. They succeeded in getting



her to come and agreed to pay her the unprecedented sum of \$20 a month. It is true that she was to board herself, but she boarded with her sister, Mrs. Green, for seventy-five cents a week. She was going through a course of study at what was afterwards Ingham University, Leroy, and was considered a prize as a teacher. Teachers had taught for \$1.50 a week of five days and a half, and as a very general thing boarded around. Indeed many teachers taught for less than \$1.50,—\$1.25 was the more common price. Miss Maxson inspired her scholars with great enthusiasm in their studies and has been remembered lovingly and gratefully all these years. She taught one summer on the Pennsylvania side of the line, and in the winter of 1845-6 at Ceres again on the New York side of the line. She then went to Alfred as preceptress, where she has remained ever since and is now the widow of President Allen.

After several years there came so many complaints against the Edwards because they paid such high prices for teachers, that they chose to be set off in a district by themselves. It was a serious injury to the village school, but they retained their separate school as long as they had children of their own to send, when the schools were again united, but there never has been the interest in the schools there was in those earlier days, when history, philosophy, botany, rhetoric, algebra, astronomy, chemistry, etc., were taught, the teachers doing much work out of school hours.

The village of Ceres was especially unfortunate in being on both sides of the line between Pennsylvania and New York so that though attempts were made to unite the districts none of them were successful until 1893, when the



school house on the New York side was built over and arranged for two departments and two teachers. There was some arrangement then made so that the scholars from the Pennsylvania side could attend.

In referring to some of the people of the district objecting to the high wages that were paid to teachers by the Edwards in the forties, there were those who had children who fully seconded them in their efforts to get good teachers. Chief among those was John Bell, who had a large family and was eager to have them well educated. Dianah King, though a widow and poor, was willing to make heavy sacrifices to have her children educated.

#### PHYSICIANS.

The first physician who became a resident of Ceres was Dr. Enoch Maxson. He built the small house now used as a barn by Byron Danforth. He married the widow Waterbury, a daughter of John Darling. After Mr. Van Amburg's death, which was in 1835 or 1836, he bought the house on the hill so long known as "the John Austin place." Here he lived for several years, but sold out and moved west in 1837, or thereabouts. He must have come early in the thirties.

The next who came was Dr. Converse Green, now of Alfred. He came early in the forties and remained until about their close. He bought the house built by Clark Stillman. It was a wearing life to travel over rough roads in all kinds of weather and often in the night, and the remuneration was not sufficient to induce one to remain long, until the country was pretty well settled and the roads greatly improved.

In 1849 Dr. R. P. Stevens came and practiced



here four or five years. He was from New York, and it was a little singular that a man of his education and abilities should stay so far from the city. Years after he left Ceres he was engaged by Agassiz to accompany him in his botanical and geological researches in South America.

Dr. Mosher had established himself here before Dr. Stevens left, and remained for fourteen or fifteen years. For several years he kept the Oswayo House, which he found brought in more money than the practice of medicine.

Dr. C. D. Thompson came in the latter part of the fifties and stayed four or five years, and in 1861 Dr. J. P. Boothe came and stayed thirty years, when he removed to Olean. He had an extensive and lucrative practice.

In 1868 Dr. Babcock bought the place where F. M. Van Wormer now lives and lived there several years. Dr. I. S. Hamilton was with him a year or more, but they both left for more promising fields of labor.

A number of physicians came and went, but in 1878 Dr. H. A. Place came, fresh from his medical course, and remains unto the present, having secured an extensive and desirable practice.

Dr. O. E. Burdick has recently begun to practice, there generally being more calls than can be met by one physician. Hard as the work has been, those who have persevered in it have made a good competency.

Dr. T. C. Ledyard bought and built here in 1853 the beautiful home for some years occupied by Mrs. I. S. Hamilton. He devoted his attention mostly to dental work, and not finding sufficient to employ him here, nor in the vicinity, he made extensive journeys and often was successful in finding work abundant and highly remunerative, but he made one journey too many and





lost his life in Central America in the fall of 1870, as did also his brother-in-law, Robert Bell, who had accompanied him, being also a dentist. In his travels Dr. Ledyard had been in the habit of going without weapons, but at the time of his death he was well armed. Not being suspicious they were taken unawares and both cut down almost simultaneously.

Of Dr. Enoch Maxson it should be mentioned that he was a very kind man. One instance of his kindness should not be passed without record. A poor motherless boy, of about fourteen, had epileptic fits, and often suffered much from injuries received while having them. His father lived in a little shanty not far from the creek and was clearing a follow on the north part of what was then known as the William Bell farm. In one of his fits, when alone, he fell into an open fire and was terribly burned. By walking some, and being carried by his father, he reached Dr. Maxson's, where he was kindly received and cared for during the short time he lived—between two and three weeks.

Drs. Smith and Mead were for many years the principal physicians in Olean, and the ones sent for when there was anything serious the matter here. Somewhere in the thirties Dr. Truman established himself in Bolivar and was sometimes called upon, as he was nearer. In later years Dr. Whitney of Olean had considerable practice here.

Dr. Green furnishes some items of his experience while at Ceres which I gladly give. He says that his ride extended eighteen or twenty miles in some directions, which we can readily understand was up the Oswayo, and its tributaries as far as settled, and up Bell's Run and over to An-



nin Creek. Some of the roads were mostly log roads and some mere bridle paths. When detained overnight in some of those pioneer houses he would lie down on the rough hewn floor, or even on the ground, with his pill bags for his pillow, and sleep. He could sleep on his horse, if the low branches of some tree did not lash or whisk him off. One time when sleeping in his cutter he was awakened by finding himself in the snow, with robes and cutter on top. Once when called in time of high water down the creek he went as far as his horse could carry him; he was met by a man in a boat or canoe who carried him to his destination. Another time when the horse was nearly swimming coming to a high bank and trying to get upon dry ground its feet loosened so much of the earth that both horse and rider were precipitated into the almost ice-cold water. They succeeded in getting out, but the pill-bags floated away. Though his clothes were frozen when he reached home no serious after effects followed, so hardly did this outdoor life make those who endured it. One day in coming down King's Run in a heavy rainstorm, he met a man with a loaded team who was stopped and unable to proceed. While stopping to help the man out of his trouble there came a blinding flash of lightning, followed almost instantly by a terrible clap of thunder that almost stunned him. When he rode on he came in a few rods to a great tree that had stood by the road, completely shattered and the road strewn with the fragments. He would have been about under that tree if he had not stopped to help one in need out of trouble. Many of the people where he went were too poor to even pay for medicine, much less for prescriptions or visits, but he takes pleasure in remembering that he did not refuse



to go when called for, even if he did not expect any remuneration.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

As early as 1873 J. J. Barker began publishing a small paper, "The Ceres News." I think he continued it for several years. It was small and was not well supported.

In 1886 J. P. Herrick came to Ceres and began publishing a paper, which with changes in name and form of paper, but still under the same editorship, has continued until the present. It is now, and has been for some years, an eight page paper, and is published as well as edited by J. P. Herrick. He has also, for a number of years, published a paper at Bolivar, the "Bolivar Breeze," the only paper there. "Nothing succeeds like success," and Mr. Herrick now holds a good place among the editors of the state. The "Ceres Mail" for the past year has greatly improved in the tone of its literature. As it is the only paper taken in many families, this is a most desirable feature, making it more than a mere newspaper and advertising medium, but an educator of good morals. There should be as much commendation for what is left out as for what is put in. While eager for news, all scandalous and ridiculous stories are rejected as well as most of the objectional from his many exchanges.

When Mr. Herrick moved to Ceres he brought his mother, brothers and one sister with him. They rented and moved about for a few years when he bought V. C. Smith's house and lot. He enlarged and improved the house materially and has a pleasant home for his mother and her family, and for himself, when his business will admit of his being there, but for a number of





years he has kept up a second home at Bolivar, where his sister Anna presides, one of the brothers remaining there all the time, and where he spends a part of each week.

#### THE CIVIL WAR.

Ceres and vicinity contributed a liberal number of soldiers during the war. Some of them sleep in southern graves, some in our own cemetery, but the greater number returned and engaged in the quiet pursuits of peace.

Among those who died in the service and who descended from the earliest settlers, were Horatio Bell; two sons of Thomas Bee; John Benson son of Potter Benson, and grandson of Mary Gilbert; Winfield S. Peabody, son of Charles Peabody and grandson of Jacob Young. Of the sons of later settlers was Byron Phelps, son Isaac Phelps; and of still later settlers, Lloyd Holley, son of Nathan Holley; William P. Carner, son of Hiram Carner; Julius Call, son of B. F. Call; Ezra Tillson, son of Thomas Tillson; Brice Kinney, son of Captain Levi Kinney; Hero Bloom, a Hollander; and Charles Millison, an Irishman. There were also two Clynes, father and son, who both died in southern prisons.

Major General Thomas Kane came here the next week after Fort Sumter was fired upon to obtain volunteers for a regiment he was forming, and which took the name of Bucktail from the emblem they wore. It was one of the very first regiments formed, and did credit to itself and its distinguished leader. The hard service through which it passed seriously thinned its ranks, but there are still a goodly number who proudly claim that they belonged to the first formed Bucktail regiment.

A branch of the Woman's Christian Commis-



sion, auxiliary to that at Buffalo, was organized at Ceres in the summer of 1864. Its object was to furnish comforts for sick and suffering soldiers. It held weekly meetings and was active until the close of the war. The parent society at Buffalo sent to this and other of its auxiliaries, large quantities of underclothes for the soldiers, ready cut, which they made and returned. They prepared lint and bandages and made comfortables, besides preparing cordials, fruits, pickles and whatever would prove acceptable to the sick in the hospitals.

During the winter they sent Elder S. D. Morris as a delegate to minister to the comfort and encouragement of the soldiers in whatever way he best could. He was gone six weeks. After his return he came and gave an account of his work at a public meeting held in the church. He had ministered to the wounded after a battle and had also nursed the sick in hospital, and had preached whenever he could. We who knew him did not doubt but that he had been a comfort to many a weary and homesick boy, for had not one of his own sons been in the army and come home and died, and every other soldier was to him like a son. Ceres Auxiliary paid his expenses.

This society did not do all that was done here for the soldiers during the war, but it was the only organization for their comfort; many had previously contributed through other societies, particularly those of Portville and Genesee.

There was much counterfeiting through the country, especially before the war. The large forests, especially those on Pine Creek, affording almost inaccessible hiding places for culprits from the officers of the law. Occasionally arrests were made, and at one time two men,



who had been staying about Ceres for some time were taken away in irons, and I believe had to serve short sentences in prison.

A circumstance that did more than anything else to put down counterfeiting was that a man who had belonged to an extensive gang was being tried, and being sure of conviction said he would give information to some one that could bring some of the gang to trial. The postmaster at Ceres, then John King, was sent for, but owing to the slowness of the mails and of traveling, when he arrived at the place of the trial the man had already been sentenced to a long term of years in Auburn, so that his testimony could convict no one, but he told Mr. King who the principal persons were that were concerned in the business and where their tools were kept, and much that would have led to their detection and arrest if they had gone on with their nefarious business.

A gang of counterfeiters were arrested not far from Coudersport, about the close of the war.

Mrs. Morse, who was formerly Mrs. John Smith, said that the carpenter who finished their house was a counterfeiter, and it was discovered afterwards that he had counterfeited considerable money while there. He kept his tools for counterfeiting in with those for wood-work and he was not readily detected. He did beautiful wood-work. In the family sitting room was a fireplace that was nicely finished up; it would be considered as elaborately ornamental at the present time. There was also a bedsink, a common arrangement in those days, off the sitting room. This had an arch in front and was of similar workmanship to that of the fireplace.

The first house that John Smith built was of hewn logs, then he put on this nicely framed



front, and later, Mr. Leonard, while owning it, put on a larger front.

The first regular store was kept by John Smith in a building about where the Grand Central hotel stood, or a little north of it. Francis King, and later John King, had kept some of the most necessary things, which they had sold as a matter of accommodation to the settlers about them, rather than of profit to themselves. How early John Smith opened his store I do not know, but from what I can learn I conclude early in the twenties. John Danforth was either a clerk or a partner with him for a time.

A man by the name of Wheelock, from Richburg or vicinity, kept a store for awhile. The building was small and was near the spot where Henry Rose's store stood.

John Smith died in June, 1840, and V. P. Carter bought his store and kept it for a time, but after his marriage in 1842, removed to Richburg.

Nelson Peabody and Russel Cooper kept a grocery in Cooper's house for a number of years.

Joseph Morse and his sons, Charles and Joseph, came to Ceres in 1842. They opened a store between where the old red tavern stood and the place where O. P. Coon's store now stands. As I remember, the south side of the store was four or five feet from the ground and supported by posts.

After them Robert Hinds had a store here for a short time, and later the Adams brothers, Ralph and George, came and opened a store in an old building, but soon put up what was known as the "large store" until it was burned in 1886. They continued in the mercantile business until the sixties. Ralph Adams built the large house and barn where Mrs. John Holley now lives, and George Adams built the dwelling





between George Smith's and the large store. I think that Joseph Morse, Jr., was a partner for a time with the Adamises in their store.

Christopher Smith built a store on the south side of the Oswayo in the early sixties. Before this there had been a grocery near where the present corner grocery by the bridge now stands. This grocery was for some years kept by Charles Peabody, until his death in 1850. Simpson & Barber, Ira Lesuer, V. P. Carter, for many years, J. B. Gleason, G. N. Perry, F. H. Raymond, W. A. Percival, M. F. Riley, and for many years the Robarts brothers, and still others, have engaged in mercantile business here. One of the early merchants was Levi Davis, who kept a general store in the house where he lived, which was known as the Henry Smith house.

Ceres has always been a sufferer from the frequent emigration of its citizens, but not more so than many places in the eastern states. So long as the great West promised free homesteads, a mild climate, and fertile soil where abundant crops could be raised with little toil, the tide of emigration was westward, and, in a measure, still tends that way, though some of it has been diverted southward since the war.

The war of 1812 was a heavy tax upon the country everywhere, and in this wilderness it was hard to bear any extra burdens. The war brought, too, a fear of the Indians, not known before, but which proved groundless. Just after the close of the war came the cold season of 1816, the frosts destroying all the crops planted. People were driven to the woods for game, which could not have been abundant or the Indians of Canadea, in Allegany county, not far north, would not have been in a starving con-



dition, as stated in Turner's Pioneer History of Phelps's and Graham's purchase. The fish in the streams, and herbs and roots, helped many to eke out a scanty subsistence. One man, who was afterwards prominent in the county, used to tell of having lived on "boiled nettles for three weeks." Nettles were abundant and were much used for greens and also as a cure for ague, which was more or less common through the country, but, as a steady diet, could not have done more than to keep off starvation.

This notable season was followed by more productive ones, and the tide of emigration from the eastern states to the West, which begun before the war, was now greatly augmented. Much of it came through Olean (then Hamilton, but later Olean Point) and made a ready market for everything that could be raised on the farms. Later this emigration made a market for the pine which was at first only a burden to the settlers who wished to engage in farming. When the New York and Erie canal was completed the tide of travel to Olean, which had previously been diminishing, ceased so far that for many years there was much business depression away from the streams, where lumber could be sent in rafts to a market.

Among the early settlers who left Ceres were John C. Brevost, (Bravo), and John Watson and wife. They were educated, intelligent persons who must have added much to the society of the isolated little settlement. In 1815 the Crawfords went. In the biographical sketch published of John Crawford, it is stated that he was born in Lycoming county, but all of McKean county was then a part of Lycoming county. I think, from what I had heard him say of his early days, that he was born in Ceres.



Their house stood on the southwest of King's Corners, a little south of the road and near a spring. In his visits to Ceres he always carried away some memento of the old place to his home.

In later years, those prominent who left our village were Paul Crandall, William Stillman, Dr. Maxson, Paul and Barton Edwards, Dr. Green, and many others. Afterwards, members of the King, Bell, Smith, Young and Easty families. Still later, the Ledyard, Gillett, Riley, Boothe, and many others who were here for but a short time. The Manns, who had been here for a number of years, more or less, were a serious loss. They had all left before 1846, I think. These who left, with those who were removed by death, caused a constant change in the small society here.

Jacob Young was a man of much enterprise, but, though hard working and industrious, not as successful in money making as some of his neighbors. He had, however, enough to supply all needed comforts for his old age. The last twenty or more years of his life he was an invalid, slowly dying with consumption.

His oldest daughter married Charles Peabody, in 1844. He died in 1851, leaving her with three small children. She made great efforts to support herself and them, and in the course of two years had built the house where Mrs. E. C. Smith now lives, but, overworking, she died of consumption in 1857. The oldest son, Winfield S., went into the army when eighteen, and died from the effects of the first day's march, being of but slight constitution. Mary, the only daughter, married Oscar W. Hamilton. They have lived many years in Olean, and have three nice daughters. The other son, Lucien, lives at Rix-





ford, and has a nice family, consisting of a wife and six children.

Amos Young, the oldest of Jacob Young's family, early had to take his father's place in caring for the welfare of the family. He wished to enter the ministry of the Methodist church, and did preach for several years in Kansas. He was a successful evangelist. Leaving Ceres in 1855 he was never here for but a few months at a time afterward. He had for many years been a prominent member of the church, and after he left, as many others had left, it seemed for a time that the church must go down. He married, in 1864, a young lady from Jasper, N. Y., who only lived a few months; several years after he married Mrs. Evaline Frank, of Great Valley, N. Y. He died of consumption in 1877, but his widow is still living at Great Valley, a useful and excellent woman.

The second daughter, Clarissa, married Harvey Tillotson and removed to Corry, where she died in 1871. Her husband died some years after her, but there are still two sons living.

Charlotte, the third daughter, married Robert Hinds, Jr., and died in 1853, leaving two little boys. These were cared for by their grandmother Hinds, who had lived here for many years, and of whom more particular mention should have been made, as she and her husband were both worthy of kindest remembrance.

These boys both grew to manhood and died, first the older, then the younger, of consumption, the same disease as their father and mother had died of before them; thus completely obliterating a family, as in the case of William M. Smith.

Levi, the second son of Jacob Young, married Laverne Mattison, and after a few years removed to Allegany, where he died, not far from 1880,



leaving a wife, son and daughter, who are still living.

The fourth daughter, Eleanor, married William K. King, and died in 1858. There are three of her children living. The youngest daughter, Eliza A., also married William King, some time after her sister's death, and died in 1870. She, too, has three children living. The Young family, of whom not one has been living since Levi's death, were noted for their industry, kindness, morality and conscientiousness.

Ceres has suffered much from fires. The first was D. and J. Edwards' saw-mill in 1837. It was soon built up. The next which I remember was that of a small building that had formerly been used as a store, but which was then occupied as a dwelling, and was on the lot now owned by Louis Carrier. It was occupied at the time by Harrison Nichols. The family barely escaped. William Weber's house was burned in 1845. For many years there was not another fire. In 1854 a nice little dwelling, where the house of F. H. Call and sister now stands, was burned. It was occupied by James Lanphere, who was keeping a dry-goods store in town at the time. In 1867 a fire swept the street from the bridge to the corner of the street. V. P. Carter had a large dwelling where the Grand Central hotel stood until recently, and a store between the house and bridge. It took both, as well as several smaller buildings. Gilbert N. Perry was then occupying Carter's store. This fire was a heavy loss to the place.

The drug store of O. P. Coon was burned in 1886, and the dwelling house on the corner, south of the bridge, in 1882. In 1887 a destructive fire destroyed the house and store of H. A.



Rose, "the large store" owned by V. P. Carter, the millinery store, the large store on the corner, then owned by W. A. Percival and Frank Wright, with the harness shop of C. A. Warner, and the shoe shop and post office of B. H. Call, stopping before it reached the hotel.

In 1890, F. M. Van Wormer's saw-mill, grist-mill, and other buildings connected with them, were burned.

In 1891, the Oswayo house, the opera house, a dwelling occupied by A. Kimball, the barns and other buildings connected with the hotel, together with the store of Mrs. C. H. Smith, then occupied by the Robarts Brothers, the printing office of J. P. Herrick, the drug store of G. W. Hackett, a shoe shop and business office owned by J. B. Gleason, were all burned. As but two buildings—a blacksmith shop and a small office—have been put up since the fire, that street has a desolate look.

The house of John Edwards was burned in 1877, only a short time after his death.

In the spring of 1895, F. M. Van Wormer's planing mill was burned, but was soon rebuilt. In August, of the same year Coon's drug store burned. As it was a two-story building it was with much difficulty that other buildings were kept from burning. In the following October, the Grand Central hotel, Robarts' store, Fred Call's store, C. A. Warner's and F. H. Raymond's were all burned. Two families were burned out; also Dr. Boothe's office. It seemed that the fire might have been prevented spreading from the hotel but for a large billiard saloon just back of Robarts' and the Call and Warner stores. Ceres was almost wiped out of existence. The lumber being nearly all manufactured, there will be less business here than



formerly and people will not be ready to build up again, so the place will be seriously and permanently injured by them.

Annin Creek and Bell's Run should be mentioned in connection with Ceres, as it was their outlet into the older settled portions of the country.

Elder Evans made the first settlement on Annin Creek, and for many years it was called Evan's Settlement. It was so remote from other settlements, and the roads so bad, that it was of very slow growth. It was more readily accessible from the Allegany river through Turtle Point than from Ceres, as there was a high hill between the head of King's Run and Annin Creek.

Elder Evans was a First-day Baptist minister, and gathered a church around him, of which he was pastor. He occasionally preached at Ceres.

Among the first settlers, several miles up Bell's Run, were the Vandemarks. They had sold a good farm on the Genesee flats and had come to this wilderness hoping to find relief for a grievously afflicted daughter. As land was cheap, others gradually followed them, but as the roads were almost impassable the greater part of the year, they were sadly isolated, and were mostly destitute of schools and church privileges for many years. Now there are three school districts and one church. There are many worthy citizens, and all along "the roon" are many good buildings and well-improved and well-stocked farms.

Elder Herrick, a minister of the church of the United Brethren, held a series of meetings there in 1868, or near that time, which resulted in the conversion of a large number of the inhabitants, and a great improvement in their moral tone.





and since that time there has been preaching there every sabbath, by one or more ministers of different denominations. The roads are as good as in most sections of the country. The hills were heavily wooded with hemlock, which is being rapidly worked up, so that soon none of it will be left.

Among the nearest settlers on the Allegany river was John Morris, and farther up, Rensselaer Wright, and one or more of the Carpenters. From the scarcity of settlers they learned to regard all within a day's journey as neighbors; those who were but a few miles away were near neighbors, and there was much friendly feeling among them.

Here the noted revivalist among the Baptists, Elder Knapp, first began his preaching.

Elder Dexter S. Morris was a son of John Morris. John Morris was from Philadelphia. Rensselaer Wright, as well as Morris, was an educated man, for the times.

Asahel Wright, of King's Run, of whom mention has been made, had three daughters, the oldest of whom was a poetess. She wrote much, but never published but one volume--partly prose and partly poetry. She was a fine speaker, and was employed in 1853 by the New York State Woman's Temperance Association to lecture for them. She also taught for many years, but died in 1888. She had removed to Kansas. His second daughter devoted the greater part of her life to temperance work. She was for many years G. W. Secretary of the Good Templars of Pennsylvania, with her headquarters at Lancaster, Pa. Her home is now in Coudersport, Pa. The youngest daughter still lives on King's Run.



Another from the same vicinity, who has distinguished herself, is Mrs. Mary E. Lease, of Wichita, Kansas. She was a resident of King's Run until she was a young woman, when she went to Kansas as a teacher, and is now the prominent, as well as very popular lecturer for the People's party.

In 1845-6 the Irish began to settle in the southwest part of Ceres township, and now make a large part of the population of the town. They have been industrious and enterprising and have cleared the heavily wooded land, and put up good dwellings and farm buildings as needed, and keep up with their Yankee neighbors in thrift and enterprise, though when they came they were very poor, as many of the early settlers left Ireland in the years of the famine. There were several families there from early in the forties, and among them two families of Protestants, the Rorks and Roundtrees; but after a little they removed elsewhere.

Henry Chevalier, a Swiss, came to America in 1883. He spent a winter at John King's, learning English and teaching French. In 1835, he married Lydia Clendenon, a sister of Mrs. King, and bought the place where James King had made a beginning. There was considerable cleared land and a good orchard started. Asahel Wright, who had married Abigail Clendenon, another of Mrs. King's sisters, lived on or near the same place. After staying there several years they both sold out and moved up King's Run, more than three miles into dense woods, where they built near each other and made themselves comfortable homes, proving, as others have, that farming, though not making a person rich as soon as lumbering and the hotel business, and perhaps some other things, would,



when faithfully followed, bring a comfortable competence for one's old age.

Mr. Chevalier survived all the others of the original settlers on King's Run, as well as at Ceres, dying January 15, 1892, being over ninety years of age. He left one daughter, Marion, who had been his most faithful care-taker, after his wife's death, fourteen years before.

The following is a short obituary published in the "McKean Miner":

EDITOR MINER: Henry Chevalier died at Ceres, Pa., January 15th, 1892. Thus closes a long, eventful life. He was born in the village of Corcellis, Switzerland, September 11th, 1801, and was of a long-lived, vigorous race. His father was noted all the country round for his great physical strength as well as for honesty and integrity. These characteristics the son inherited to a marked degree.

Henry's mother died when he was three years old, his father marrying again not long after; he was brought up mostly by his stepmother. By diligence, and with the aid of his father, he acquired a good education. About the age of fifteen years he entered the Swiss army as a musician. At that time Napoleon I. had conquered and over-run Switzerland, and it, with the Swiss army, became tributary to France. Henry was in the great battle of Leipsic, under Napoleon, when he was wounded in the ankle by a Prussian bullet. At the battle of Leipsic, Napoleon was overthrown and sent to the island of Elba, and Louis XVIII. was established on the throne of France. Then Switzerland became an ally of England, Germany and Holland.

Upon Napoleon's return to France for his "reign of 100 days," Louis XVIII. relinquished





the throne and fled from France. Soon after the great and decisive battle of Waterloo was fought and won by the allied armies of England, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. In that battle Mr. Chevalier fought against Napoleon with the Swiss regiment to which he belonged. After the expiration of his service in the Swiss army, he finished his education and was employed to teach French, in a seminary of high grade, in Amsterdam.

He came to this country in 1833, in the interest of a company who wished to obtain a location for silk culture, but found that the mulberry tree would not flourish in this locality. The first winter he was here he devoted his time to the study of English and in teaching French. In 1835, he was married to Lydia Clendenon, who, with her parents and another sister, had been employed by the Society of Friends of Philadelphia as missionary teachers among the Indians on the Allegany reservation. Mr. Chevalier finally settled on a tract of wild land on King's Run, in Ceres township, about three miles south of John King's, now William K. King's, farm. Here he cleared up and improved the fine farm on which he lived until he died. With his own strong arms he hewed out of the wilderness a home where he enjoyed the comforts of life. Though a true gentleman, one who would be honored in cultured society, he was very plain in his tastes and detested the shams of the present day. He was somewhat isolated from society, yet he found genial companions in his family, and great enjoyment in his books and papers. He was a historian of ability. In his long life he had seen much history made and great changes in the governments of the world.

In 1862, he returned to Europe and was gone



nearly a year. When he came back he was very discontented and longed for his native land. In 1871, he again visited the old country, and after returning from that visit he was contented, although he always loved and spoke affectionately of the land of his nativity. In this last visit he traveled extensively through England, France, Holland, Italy and Switzerland, and could speak several different languages fluently. He was a strong Protestant and very earnest in opposition to slavery, and he lived to see the Jesuits expelled from many European countries, and slavery abolished in America.

He was a member of the Calvinistic church of Switzerland, and died as he had lived, in the faith of the gospel. He was generous to a fault, and never turned a hungry person from his door. He was honest, brave and true, and all who knew him would instinctively say, "God bless an honest man."

J. P. BOOTHE.

Olean, N. Y., March 21, 1892.

Mrs. Chevalier was an excellent woman, who did much to promote intelligence and good principles. She, as others of her family and friends, was a very strong abolitionist and would not use anything the product of slave labor. After slavery was abolished, there was, of course, no more trouble in that way. They, with John King, sent to a free-labor store in Philadelphia for their sugar and cotton goods, for many years. The maple sugar manufactured here, of course, had not the brand of slavery upon it, so that was principally used. They were earnest advocates for temperance.

In 1850, Rachel and Sarah Clendenon moved to King's Run to spend their old age near their sister, Mrs. Chevalier. Rachel died in 1856, but



Sarah lived on until 1879, and was past ninety-three. They kept house for their brother-in-law, Asahel Wright, for many years. They were women of good education, and had, by industry and energy, earned enough to have a competence in their old age, but they had been unfortunate in investing it, as women generally are, and so had to practice the closest economy and self-denial.



## CHAPTER III.

WILD ANIMALS were very numerous here in the early settlement, but there were few birds. Ravens were common then, but have long been extinct. There were large flocks of crossbills, a bird rarely seen since those early times. Pigeons came in large flocks, both fall and spring, until within a few years, when they seem to have been exterminated or driven away. Wild geese went over in great numbers, spring and fall, and their peculiar cry was a familiar sound and caused an eager looking for the flock—always in the shape of a broad-based triangle with the leader at the center. They seldom alighted unless bewildered by a storm, when they were killed in large numbers.

Wolves went in packs and were very destructive. Sheep could not be kept from them, except by putting them into covered pens, at night. These pens were built of logs and not "chinked," that the sheep might have air, and those lying near the walls were often bitten through the spaces between the logs. Frequently, when there were large packs about, fires were built to frighten them off. Horns were often blown, too, for the same purpose, as they are a cowardly animal. As late as the fore part of the forties, I remember hearing wolves howl fearfully in the early evening, as well as later in the night, and often children would be seen lying down and holding their ears close to the ground, as they could in this way hear them at a great distance. They were more troublesome in the winter than in summer.





In the winter of 1838, Daniel Karr, who lived on what is known as the "Andrus farm," had eleven sheep killed in one night, about his barn not far from his house. One large horned ram had defended himself for a long time, in the corner of a rail fence, as the tracks plainly showed, before he was overpowered. They seldom attacked persons, unless there was an especial cause for it. They were of the large yellow variety.

Panthers were the most ferocious wild animals of the country. Their scream was said to be like that of a woman in mortal agony. They were known to kill children sometimes, and there is an instance of an Indian having been killed by one in the southern part of McKean county, and another was very nearly killed near Smethport. In the latter instance the Indian had flung himself on the ground, face down, to sleep at night. The panther, which had probably been following him for some distance, sprung upon his back; but he reached and got his knife and stabbed it to death. He was too badly hurt to go for help and laid down to die beside the beast, but was found next day and taken to the home of the nearest settler, where he was kindly cared for, and recovered after a few weeks. The Indians, in times of scarcity, ate their meat. John King believed that he at one time had eaten of it. It was the winter after his mother's death, when their supplies had failed, owing to the drain upon them of the work-people, especially the one where the poor little baby, that had been so early left motherless, was nursed, insisting that she must have abundance of food, or she could not take care of that, in addition to her own baby, so these poor children—for John was not eighteen—gave up their provisions until they



would have starved, if it had not been for the kindness of the Indians. John King went to the Indian camp one night to get some meat, but they had none to let him have but a part of an animal, which he believed was a panther; but their need was such that there was not much fastidiousness about what they ate.

Mrs. Sylvanus Russell, one of the earliest settlers of Olean (1805 or 1806), used often to tell of a panther coming into her chamber, where she was sleeping, after some fresh meat that had been hung there for safe keeping. Their house was just built, and, before there were either doors or windows, her husband had to go away to get supplies, and remained from home over night. She had a boy of about fourteen come and stay over night for company and protection. They both slept up stairs for greater security, there being no partitions stronger than curtains. In the night they were awakened by hearing a scrambling on the ladder which was outside of the house. Some animal came into the room, jumped up and pulled down the meat and carried it away. They both kept very still until it was gone. Tracks in the light snow the next morning showed plainly that their visitor of the night before had been a panther. Before the next night there was some better protection from such nocturnal visitants.

There was a bounty given to all who killed any of the destructive animals, and it was sufficiently large to attract both the Indians and the white hunters, so that wild animals of all kinds were rapidly diminished.

Bears, too, were troublesome, as they would frequently climb into pig pens and take the pigs. They would sometimes carry off calves a year



old, and have been known to attack those two years old. They also killed sheep and lambs.

Foxes were abundant, and were destructive to poultry and young lambs.

Deer abounded, and were killed in large numbers, affording meat when none other was to be had; but it was a sad thing to destroy them so ruthlessly. It was generally done by chasing them down with men and dogs. They were innocent animals, the only harm they were ever charged with being that they sometimes ate down the wheat when young and tender. The fawns were pretty, delicate little creatures, that were readily tamed, but they were never safe from the attacks of hounds that had been trained to hunt.

There were some elk in McKean county, but never many in this section. Elk horns have been found occasionally in the northern part of the county even within a few years, but they had probably been here for a long time. Elk county, which joins McKean on the south, was named from the abundance of elk found there.

Wild cats frequently committed some depredations, and a few lynx have been killed in this vicinity, but there are no traces left of them at present.

The shriek of the locomotive has long banished the howl of the wolf and the cry of the panther from most parts of our land, though the unerring rifle of many of our pioneer hunters had done much towards thinning the numbers of all our wild beasts.

Occasionally a bald eagle was found nesting in some secluded place, but they, like the ravens, have retired to regions remote from civilization. A few blue heron are occasionally seen, but





hawks, owls and crows, are nearly all the large birds now found.

The pigeons should be mentioned more particularly. They came in great flocks, shutting off the sunlight like a dark cloud while they were passing. In 1868 they nested on Bell's Run, where the forest was still thick. Hunters, both white men and Indians, came from far and near, many of them camping out for many days at a time. They cut down a large amount of timber that they might get the squabs, for which there was a great demand. Since that time the pigeons have avoided this section, and there have been no pigeon roosts for a large circuit of country. The pigeons were a beautiful sight when feeding in a large field where grain had been raised—their light, slate-colored feathers, tinged beautifully about the neck with a silvery sheen, that changed in the sunlight to lovely shades of violet as brilliant as those of tame doves.

#### HISTORY OF TEMPERANCE WORK.

When the first temperance meetings were held I can not learn, but early in the thirties. Mrs. Warner says that her mother was the first woman that signed a temperance pledge here. I think that I remember there being temperance meetings in 1839—the first winter after the church was dedicated. In 1842, Elder Griswold, who was pastor of the Seventh-Day Baptist Church of Little Genesee, and Elder Leander Scott, who had formerly been a pastor there, held a series of temperance meetings. One of the landlords signed the pledge and moved out of the hotel. Nearly all of the young people signed the pledge, and were enthusiastic in attending the meetings and singing the temperance songs they had learned while there. There was still



one or two places licensed to sell, for "travelers must have liquors if they wish them"; neither was there any disgrace connected with the business, and there was much money made by keeping "entertainment for man and beast." In the spring there would be great crowds of men to "run out the creek" the rafts that had been built during the winter, and when they were all down to the river, to go on the larger fleets to Warren, Pittsburg and Cincinnati. The wages paid were large, and almost every one that could "pull an oar" was eager to go. To the young it afforded almost the only chance of seeing something of the world, and to do it, too, without expense, as they would be making instead of spending.

As there was often much exposure to rain, snow and cold, and frequently an involuntary bath in the cold water, there must be whiskey to counteract all the ill effects, imaginary as well as real, and there was no other antidote known; so there was large profits for the landlords; but it is worthy of notice, that while they were making money so fast, few ever became rich. The curse of God has ever rested upon the business, whether men understood it or not, and the cries of the widows and orphans it has made has been a fearful protest against it.

The crowds of drunken raftsmen every spring was a dreadful thing; not that every one drank, or was drunken, but people drank then that did not drink at other times, because they felt that they must, or sacrifice their health.

In 1855 there was a large lodge of Good Templars organized here, which was kept up for a time. Many had long been convinced of the evils of intemperance. Then came the civil war, which was a fearful set-back. The Government supplied intoxicants and drunkenness was on a



rapid increase. Many young men who went out to defend their country, came back worse slaves than those whom they had helped to liberate. The Bacehanalian orgies held for a long time on the porch of the "large store" were often fearful. There were those who were eager to do something to put a stop to them, but for several years it seemed impossible. Most of our prominent men in and about the village favored the liquor business, and signed the petitions for license, and it is not much cause for wonder that they should, when the government was making it a matter of revenue, and the more licenses the greater the revenue. Remonstrances were circulated and petitions were sent to the county courts, praying them not to grant licenses, but they were not apparently regarded in the least, until in 1868 a remonstrance was circulated with better success than ever before, and no license was granted to the only landlord who applied at the time, though probably but one hotel was open. The Oswayo House was then kept by Nathan Palmer. The thing was done so quickly that there was little chance for opposition. Women had begun the work of circulating remonstrances and had done what they could, when three young men took up the work, and by one day's diligent effort in the remote parts of the town, brought up the list to so large a number that the court readily refused any license. This was a very signal and encouraging victory for temperance people, and from that time there have been but few licenses granted. The three young men who worked so earnestly should be remembered. Two of them have passed from earth—Henry Ledyard and Sobieski Cooper—but R. R. Bell is as true a temperance man as then. But for the work of these three





young men all that others had done would probably have proved a failure.

There was a lodge of Good Templars again organized in 1868. This was well kept up for several years, but the expenses proved too much and it was finally disbanded. For several years they paid \$100 per annum for rent. A number of times since then temperance societies have been organized, but have soon died out, with the exception of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which was organized in 1884, and which still holds on its way, though it has never been a large society. It being founded on the Gospel has alone enabled it to abide. It is good to work for the elevation of humanity in any way, and it is really Christian work, but when it is undertaken for Christ's sake then the workers are not dismayed at discouragements that would otherwise overcome them, because they do not war against the evil they combat in their own strength, but in the name of God.

From 1868 to 1890 the temperance people circulated remonstrances before every winter court and nearly every summer court. Failing to circulate as they should before the June court, because they did not suppose it necessary, had once or twice allowed a license to be granted, and once there was one granted to F. A. Chapman in the winter early in the eighties.

The circulating of remonstrances through the village, to Myrtle, and to the Potter county line, and up Bell's Run and King's Run, and to Barber Town and McRae Brook, became very burdensome, especially so when it was necessary to obtain a majority of the voters in the township; but when in 1888 Judge Olmstead decided that women might sign the remonstrances, and that their names, though kept separate, should count





the same as men's, it was almost an assured fact that the temperance people would win.

The Hon. A. G. Olmstead deserves, and has, the gratitude of all temperance people; for in 1889 he said that he knew the temperance sentiment of the people of Ceres township so well that it would be unnecessary for them to bring any more remonstrances before him, that he should not grant any more licenses to any one in Ceres. Still there is liquor sold in out of the way places, and probably there will be so long as it can be so readily obtained as now, both from Bolivar and Olean; and there are men who are too lazy to work, and who are ready to do anything for money, even to "making merchandise of the souls and bodies of men." There have been frequent prosecutions in the past years, and some convictions; but often, because the officers of the law were in sympathy with the liquor sellers, it was useless to attempt to bring them to justice. Often the worst men have been elected to office, because they would shield the violators of the law. We are glad to have a better state of affairs now, and yet it is hard to bring offenders to justice. Everywhere there is more or less trouble in enforcing the laws against liquor selling. The maliciousness of the rum power is fearful, and while it does not hesitate in many instances to destroy the property, nor even to take the lives of those who oppose it, people are intimidated from attempting to enforce the laws.

Ceres, being a center for large lumbering interests in the past, has been most unfortunately situated. The village being in two states, it did not much matter if they could not get a license in one state, they could get it in the other, and the distance between hotels was so small that it was but a slight drawback.



It has been the boast of the town of Genesee that they had never had a license, and it was a matter of which they might well be proud; but they still could not prevent the illegal sale. One of the contrivances of one of the landlords to avoid paying for a license, was to have a small building attached to the "old, red tavern," so that it could only be entered from the hotel, which was all in Pennsylvania, but the addition was all in New York; so that liquor was sold in Genesee, though they had to go into Pennsylvania to get it.

In connection with the remonstrances, it should have been mentioned that we had to raise money each year to pay a lawyer for presenting them at court, seldom less than ten dollars, and in 1888 we paid twenty-five dollars. In the early years of this work, W. K. King assisted very materially in securing the best lawyers to do this.

In 1880, or near that year, the "old red tavern" was moved down near the cemetery. It took some time and labor. A lady writing about it, said, "If all the tears that have been shed as a result of the drunkenness caused there, could be put into a stream, it would float the old building to its place without any trouble, and if all the money that has been spent over its bar could be invested in school buildings and churches, we would have the finest in the country."

The oldest house in this part of the country is the kitchen attached to John King's house. It was built for a land office in 1806 or 1807, but was never used for that purpose. I can find no record of it, but give the date as I heard it many years ago. John King's house was built in 1819.



The land upon which it is built being wet from the draining of the hill has caused the sills to decay, which is allowing it, it part, to settle into the cellar. It is a curiosity to those who have never seen other than the light frames that are put up at the present time. Two large chimneys went up through the building, one from the cellar; the one in the west end of the building having four fireplaces connected with it, and that on the east but two. It was built in English style, having a large hall running through it. The plates, or large beams, in the garret, are nearly a foot in diameter. It was built when pine lumber was not very valuable, so it is all of clear stuff pine. It was originally sealed throughout, but some of it was lathed and plastered about twenty years after it was built. It is situated near where the first house built by Francis King formerly stood. I think this building was finished up with hand-wrought nails, but am quite sure that the kitchen was so built.

The tenant house was built of materials in great part taken from one of the buildings on the hill. Connected with the King house was a large garden, the greater part of which was devoted to flowering plants and shrubs, which did much to make it the most beautiful place in all the country about. There are still some traces of the shrubbery left. The south side of the house was covered with a large grape vine, that added much to the beauty of the large and otherwise plain building. Mrs. King spent much time among her flowers, and was always ready to give a portion of her plants to any one who would care for them; so that almost every house had a few flowers, and to this day there are a good many through the country that were prop-





agated from hers. In those days there were no seed stores nor catalogues of plants, so that new plants were only obtained by purchase from some garden, or by exchange from one another.

Mrs. King was a literary woman and had a supply of books and papers that was very unusual in those days, but she and her husband were ready to lend, so that it was almost as advantageous as if there had been another circulating library in the place; more so in some ways, as it brought in another kind of reading matter. They had much anti-slavery reading, which helped largely in giving a strong anti-slavery tone to the place. There were anti-slavery lectures, occasionally, by some of the best speakers. Charles and Cyrus Burleigh both lectured here in those early days, and others. The Kings kept a station on the "underground railway," and occasionally some distressed fugitive found a refuge there. In the winter of 1847-8, one who had escaped pursuit all the way from New Orleans, spent the winter in their kitchen, not being able to bear the cold to work out of doors. In 1842, a company of refugees from Maryland came, who took up and settled on lands just over the hill south from the King place, where they remained in peace and security, being industrious and frugal and eager to secure comfortable homes, until the Fugitive Slave Law frightened them into selling out and removing to Canada.

John S. Mann came to Ceres in 1836. He taught the district school on the Pennsylvania side of the line, one term, then went to Olean and taught for a time. After a trip to Texas for the benefit of his health, where he engaged in teaching, he returned and studied law with Ellis, Esq., of Coudersport, and after being admitted



to the bar married Mary W., the oldest daughter of John King, and removed to Coudersport.

Joseph Mann came to Ceres in 1838, and remained until 1845, when he removed to Millport and after many years to Coudersport. He married Eloisa A. Dutton, of Portage, N. Y., who had taught a number of terms at Ceres on the Pennsylvania side of the line. Joseph Mann taught several winters in the same school, but was employed in surveying during the summers. In 1844-5 John Mann taught the same school. He with his sons Joseph and John S., had kept a private seminary at Mannington, Pa., and so were well prepared to teach more than an ordinary country school, and they gave an impulse towards obtaining a higher education that was invaluable to the young people of that time. The other sons of John Mann, Lewis and Parvin, were here more or less.

John S. Mann was a very active temperance worker. He had done much to build up a strong temperance sentiment in his county. He was a member of the legislature for a number of terms, and while a member of that body was largely instrumental in having the Potter County Prohibitory Law passed. There was an attempt made by liquor men to have it repealed in 1894. John S. Mann died in 1878, and they seemed to think it could be done without much opposition. But Mrs. Mann and others had petitions to the Governor circulated throughout the county, but the bill was killed in the committee and the Governor never saw it, which proves that the law holds a strong place in the hearts of the best citizens.

John King and his wife had been noted for their temperance as well as their anti-slavery principles, and it required some force of moral



character to make a stand against the almost universal habit of treating and being treated. It is true, that sometime in the thirties, he built a goodly-sized cider mill on his farm and manufactured some cider for a number of years, but being convinced that it was not promoting temperance, he closed it up. In the days of slavery they had shown the same earnest principle by not using dry goods or groceries that were the product of slave labor, though it cost much more to purchase free-labor goods, and many times they were not as nice as the others.

Daniel Carr, whose wife was Ann Lull, must have come here late in the twenties, or early in the thirties. About 1853 he sold to E. N. Andrus and removed to Illinois. Mr. Carr did much hard work in clearing land and in building. He first built a house of hewed logs, to which he put a framed addition after a time. He also built the barn which still stands; and I think the old log house is still there, but clapboarded and covered both outside and inside, and is a warm, strong house. Mr. Andrus improved both the farm and the house and lived there until his death in 1888. Mrs. Andrus then sold and removed to Bolivar, to La Grange Andrus.' She is still living, and is, and has been, a useful and respected woman, whose removal from Ceres was much regretted.

Edward Steenrod built a small house, in the early thirties, on the lot now owned by Charles Gleason, but the water frequently coming into the house when there were floods, he built and moved into a house where Mr. Peabody's barn now stands. Later he removed to Friendship, and Jeremiah Deitz, who had a blacksmith shop near, lived in the house for several years. Arnestus Deitz, his brother, who





lived with him for a time, married Elizabeth Smith, second daughter of Harry Smith. They lived on the Phelps's place for a time, but removed to Ohio, and later to Wisconsin, where Mr. Deitz died, after a long and lingering illness, leaving his wife and six children. She, being a woman of much energy, succeeded in keeping her family together and bringing them up to be intelligent and useful citizens. Mrs. Deitz is still living, though broken in health and advanced in years, honored and beloved by her children, and the many friends she found wherever she has lived.

When Mrs. Deitz was here last, in '92-'93, she bought and put up a tablet for her grandfather and grandmother, and an uncle who had died when a young man. It cost over \$60, and she had but little help in meeting the bills, but was glad to have something to mark the graves of those whom she had known and loved as a child, and whose memory she had always cherished, and who for their prominence in the early settlement should be remembered.

Isaac Phelps must have come here quite early in the thirties. His wife was Laura, daughter of Dr. Rue. She was an estimable woman, and I think one of the first church members. She must have died before 1850. For a second wife he married Amarilla Maxson, and moved away from Ceres. Later, his second wife dying, he married a Miss Lull, grand-daughter of the widow Lull, and removed to Wisconsin. His only son went into the army, during the late war and died there. A headstone among those of his family, keeps him in remembrance here.

There was, for many years, a tannery a little ways back of where the Grand Central hotel recently stood. It was built partly above, and





partly below the bank. The upper part was used as a dwelling and the tannery was below. It was built and worked by William Stillman, who was a brother of Clark Stillman, who built on the corner just across the bridge. He removed to Wisconsin, not far from 1840. He sold out to George Merritt, who kept up work in it and lived in the upper part for a good many years, when he, too, sold and removed to Wisconsin, when it stood idle for a time, but was finally entirely removed.

Daniel Edwards came to Ceres in 1828. He built a log shanty, near the foot of the hill, on the main road going east from Ceres. Here, with his wife and one little child, he lived in the summer of 1828. His wife was Clarissa Gifford, of Newport, Rhode Island, who was ready to go with him any where, and to brave the hardships of a new country. Daniel was also a native of Rhode Island. I think they left Rhode Island the year before and came as far as Pittsford, near Rochester, on the N. Y. & E. canal, and the next summer to Ceres. In the summer of 1828, Daniel put up a small framed house, near where Mr. Case now lives, and moved into it in the early winter. Here he lived, dispensing the most generous hospitality, until 1853, when he built and moved into the house now occupied by Mr. George Case, and lived there until 1876. John Edwards, brother of Daniel, came in November of the same year. He went back in a year or more, and married Harriet Gifford, a sister of his brother Daniel's wife. He and Daniel formed a partnership that continued to 1875. The next summer after they came, they began preparations for a saw-mill, and, as they had no team, they made the needed excavation for their millpond and removed the



dirt with a wheelbarrow. In 1830 they succeeded in getting their mill built.

John and Daniel, with their families, all lived in the one small house for a time, but in 1837, or about that time, they built a cabinet shop, the second story of which they fitted up for a dwelling, where John moved with his family and lived there for some years, when he put up a large house across the street from the cabinet shop, where he lived until his death, in 1877, at the age of 76. Soon after his death this house was burned, and his widow lived with Mrs. Case, her daughter, until her death.

George Case now owns the land, and the buildings that still remain, that were formerly D. and J. Edwards'. F. M. Van Wormer bought the timber on the land, and the great pines, that would be curiosities now, have been cut down and worked up into lumber to the last one. In some places in the vicinity, not only have the pine and hemlock been cleared out, but the hardwood and the second growth of pine. Mr. Case has cleared up much of the land from which the timber had been removed and put the farm in good shape, but the active little hamlet, shut in from observation, excepting that the highway from Ceres to Friendship and the intermediate places passed through it, has dwindled to one large dwelling with its outbuildings, where there was formerly a saw-mill, siding and shingle-mills, cabinet shop, blacksmith shop, a large flouring mill, two large dwellings and two smaller ones for work-people, with the numerous barns and other outbuildings. Nearly everything is gone that showed the energy and activity of Daniel and John Edwards.

Daniel Edwards was an unusually intelligent and public-spirited man, and his brother John,



though not originating so many improvements, readily seconded them in carrying them out. They had much to do with the building of the first schoolhouse at Ceres on the New York side of the line, which stood where Livingstone White's house now stands, or very near it. Together they looked up the best teachers the country afforded. There being a school of high grade at Alfred, and they in frequent communication with its Principal and others, they could readily do this.

The Edwardses were strong temperance men and did much towards preventing licenses in Genesee township, and the people of that township can still say, "No licenses were ever granted in the town of Genesee." It is true that liquor has been sold there, much of it during the oil excitement, but never legally. If people were as intent on being honest and doing right as they are to cheat and circumvent the law we would soon see the dawning of a millenium.

The Edwardses were strong anti-slavery men. Their father and mother came after they had been here a few years, and spent their last years with them. Their youngest brother, Barton, was here for a number of years, but went to Wisconsin, where he is still living. Paul, another brother, came only a few years after Daniel and John came, and bought a part of what is now the "Carter farm," a little way out of the village, and an old building still standing was a shoe-shop which he built. He, too, went to Wisconsin, where both he and his wife died—he many years ago, and she quite recently. They went west in 1844.

After the firm of D. and J. Edwards was dissolved, they each sold his share of the property, John selling for \$17,000 and Daniel for \$18,500.





Daniel had previously been induced to become security for some persons who did not meet their obligations, and he had to pay for them. He lost heavily, too, through unfortunate investments of his son in the lumber woods of Michigan, and his property rapidly disappeared, so that but for friends rallying around him, he would not have been able to procure comforts for himself and wife, and even with all the help received he was sorely cramped and worked when he was not able to do so. He died at the age of eighty, of putrid erysipelas. It is sad that a man who had been so industrious, temperate and economical, and withal so generous and kind, should come to poverty. His wife, a woman greatly beloved, lived on until March, 1887, when she died at the age of eighty-one, a lovely, Christian woman.

John Edwards' wife has but recently died, February 22, 1894. She was a woman of great energy and activity, until age and poor health laid their weight upon her. Still she traveled much, and attended the World's Fair, which was only the summer before her death, and came home alone, after her daughter had seen her safely on the train. She had fitted herself for the practice of medicine, especially for women and children, and was successful as a physician. She had a wonderful memory, and it was interesting to hear her tell of her journeyings and of her experiences in pioneering, and the articles which she wrote for the Friendship Register will be prized for their historical value.

The Edwardses were all Seventh Day Baptists. Daniel and John in their early manhood were converted and joined the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and were very earnest and enthusiastic, walking ten miles to church and back; but



twenty miles was a good deal of walking for men that worked early and late, so sometimes they did not go, and when some of the old members took them to task about it, Daniel thought them so unjust that he withdrew and never more united with them. He tried to be a Universalist and a Spiritualist, but became disgusted with both. He was really a better man than he professed to be, or that one might think him to be while talking in some of his perverse moods.

Another matter that must not be omitted while speaking of the Edwardses, and that is their care of the sick. They were all good nurses. They had learned much by reading and study, perhaps more in the school of experience, and were better prepared than some of the early physicians to treat most cases of acute disease. After losing one little girl from the effects of calomel, Daniel Edwards began the study of the Thomsonian practice, then just coming into notice, and later homeopathy, but finally adopted eclectic methods. Both Daniel and John, with their wives, watched with the sick, cared for the dying, and assisted in the burial of the dead, for miles around them, and continued to do so for many years, as long, indeed, as they were able.

One of my pleasant memories of Daniel Edwards is that of very stormy mornings he used to drive to the schoolhouse with his own, and brother's children and others in his neighborhood, and then drive down the road as far as John Bell's and get the children there and all the others on the way back to the schoolhouse.

Daniel Edwards had seven children that lived to maturity. Hannah, the oldest of these married Peter Van Slyke of Wyoming county, but whose home for many years was in



Hamilton, Missouri, and where she died in 1887, leaving two sons and two daughters.—Jane, the second daughter, married Frank White, who went with William Edwards, Daniel's older son, to Kansas during the Border War, and there both died of fever. Jane and her son and daughter lived at her father's most of the time ever after, and cared for her father in his frequent sickness until his death, and then took care of her mother as long as she lived. She had two children and three grand-children, and now has her home with her daughter.—Kate, the third daughter, married Israel Beagle. She lives with her family in the state of Nebraska.—Daniel R., the only son living, has a wife and two children. They live in Saginaw, Mich.

John had three children that lived to maturity.—Abby married Charles Witter, of Nile; he died in Andersonville prison; Amanda, the wife of George Case, and Mary, the wife of William Rich, of Florida. Abby has three sons and two daughters living, her oldest son being Elder E. A. Witter, of Milton, Wisconsin. Emmet, the second son, lives in Alfred and has a wife and eight children. The older daughter is Mrs. Randolph, of Plainfield; the second is married and lives in Rhode Island, and the youngest son is also living in Rhode Island, but is not married. I should not have omitted to mention that Daniel Edwards lost two daughters both young women by fever in the summer of 1857. They were lovely girls.

John C. Danforth came here as a clerk for John Smith early in the thirties. He married Mary Lord, of Friendship, in 1836. They had four children. They kept the "old red hotel," on the north side of the creek, for many years, at differ-





ent times. It was no easy task to provide food and lodging for the great crowd of raftsmen that came every spring, but Mrs. Danforth was a remarkably hard working woman, and withal efficient, or she could not have done it. Mr. Danforth will long be remembered as a fine singer. He frequently taught a singing school in the church, and while thus helping himself also helped others to improve. After the war their son helped them to buy the house built by Edward Renwick, and here they spent their declining years. Mr. Danforth died in 1885, and his wife in 1886. The son has recently exchanged this house and lot for a farm at Myrtle and removed there. The oldest daughter, Mrs. Electa Wheeler, wife of Frank Wheeler of Eldred, has recently died. She was an excellent, Christian woman. She leaves her husband, three sons and three daughters to mourn her.—The second daughter, Mary married Mr. Scott, of Friendship, and died in 1864, leaving one child. The youngest daughter married Wright White and lives in Nebraska.

The Coopers—Ira, Cyrus and Russell—came first as early as 1833, I think, or earlier. After a time their father, mother, and brothers Theron and Silas came, but they did not remain many years, but settled on Annin Creek, where Theron and Silas still live. In 1836, Russell built the house where Leonard White now lives. He lived there until his death in 1866. His wife died there in 1869. They left two children, a son and a daughter, who in turn married and had families; but they both died many years ago, the son leaving three children and the daughter two.

Ira built the house near Mr. White, and now owned by him, but soon after sold out and moved to Bell's Run, where he became a success-





ful farmer and lived many years. His widow married George Grow, and only recently died, at nearly ninety years of age. She leaves two daughters, the older living on Bell's Run and now the widow of Rev. Herrick; the younger has long lived in Oregon.

Cyrus sold out to Dedrick and bought land on King's Run, where he lived ten years or more, when he removed to the village and after bought and built near where Dr. Place lives; but he again sold out and removed to Myrtle, where his second wife died in 1882. He lived until 1888, when he died at the age of eighty-four, leaving three children, who still survive him—Evaline, Adelaide and Oscar. Evaline has for many years been a resident of Plainfield, N. J., the wife of J. C. Dyer. Oscar has long been a resident of South Dakota; and Ruth Adelaide is the second wife of C. A. Warner, of Ceres. Mr. Cooper's first wife died while he was a resident of King's Run.

James Ward was a colored man who came here from Montrose, or its vicinity, about 1840, and remained until his death in 1853. He married a colored woman from his native place, who survived him two or three years and died of consumption, leaving three children, who were cared for by her mother, and after awhile taken to Montrose. Mr. Ward took up land and cleared it, and built a substantial log house. The farm was afterward sold, and has now long been known as the Abram Hammond place. They were a worthy couple and received much kindness in their long sicknesses. During Mr. Ward's last sickness Mrs. Cyrus Cooper took Mrs. Ward to her house and cared for her through serious sickness. Her youngest child was born there. As Mrs. Cooper was always a



feeble woman and had much care, this must have required some sacrifice on her part, but she did it without apparently thinking that she had done more than her duty.

John Estey came to Ceres with his family in 1830, having come to Millgrove from the central part of New York in 1829. He bought out a Mr. Skinner, who lived near where Palermo Lackey lives. He built a log house near where Mr. Lackey's house now stands. He had a wife and three children who lived to maturity. Mary Jane, the older daughter, being now the widow of James Wright, long of Honeoye. The other married Americus Wood, son of Lewis Wood, of Sharon. He died and she married again but died many years ago. Nelson, the only son, is, with his family, living in Oregon. John Estey and his wife had a home, for many years before they died, with Mrs. Wright. Mrs. Estey was a devoted christian, and did much, in its earlier history, to build up the church here.

Samuel Eastey, brother of John, came to Ceres in 1837. He purchased the "old red tavern," but soon built the Oswayo House, where he lived for many years. His wife died in 1848, and not long after he married and moved to Olean, and later, with his two sons, he went to Minnesota where he died after a few years. His youngest son, Leonard, is still living. Mr. Eastey's first wife was a sister of his brother John's wife, and was an excellent woman. The only daughter married George Smith, and is still living here. She has two children living, Lucy, who married Burdette Almy, and has one daughter, and Valentine, who married Mandana Whitney of Franklinville, N. Y. and lives in Olean. Geo. Smith died in 1888 and much of the business activity of the



place ceased with him, as the large saw-mill he had long run was abandoned and all the employees were discharged. The last rafts were run in 1888, the spring after his death.

Not long after Samuel Eastey came to Ceres, several of his wife's brothers came: Nelson, Charles, Thomas and Selah Peabody. Their mother also came, and, after several years, died here.

Nelson Peabody spent his long life here, dying in 1894, at the age of eighty-one. He was first commissioned justice of the peace in 1849, and held the office untill 1861, when he was elected associate judge, which office he held for some years, when he was again elected justice and held the office until within several years of his death. His first wife died in 1864, and he afterwards married the widow, Eliza Richardson, of Haskell. His first wife had one son who died in 1870, and they also adopted Adelaide Priest second daughter of Josiah Priest when she was three years old. She married Henry Rose and they were residents of Ceres much of the time, until within a few years they have removed to Port Allegany. Mrs. Peabody is still living on the old place in feeble health, and at advanced age.

Charles Peabody, another of the brothers, taught school one or more terms when he first came, then kept a grocery for many years.

Selah only remained a short time, and has recently died.

Thomas, the oldest of the brothers, moved to Oswayo in 1829, and was one of the first two settlers of that region. He came to Ceres and remained a few years. He was a hardworking, industrious man with a large family, and went west early in the forties and





settled near Washburn, Illinois, where he succeeded in bringing up his children well, and where he lived to a good old age, only dying within a few years.—His oldest son married the older daughter of Ira Cooper, and died of small-pox in 1870, leaving several children who have done him honor. The younger son, Nelson, first married a daughter of Nathan Holley, but she dying within a few years, he returned and married Lucy Emily Smith, next to the youngest of Henry Smith's children by his second wife. Nelson Peabody, with his wife, have made several visits to their friends here, and some of his children have accompanied him several times. He has a fine family and is a prosperous man and highly esteemed.

Joseph Morse, Sr., and two sons, Joseph, Jr. and Charles, came to Ceres early in the forties. They at first had a store nearly opposite of where the Grand Central Hotel stood until the recent fire. After a time the father married Lucy Smith, widow of John Smith. Charles was married when they came. In 1846 Joseph, Jr. married Elizabeth, younger daughter of John King. She died in less than a year, leaving a young babe, which lived to man's estate—W. K. Morse. He married and lived here many years, but in 1884 moved with his family, consisting of his wife and four children, to Federalsburg, Maryland, where he died in less than two years. His wife, being an intelligent, energetic woman, is bringing up her children so that they will be honored and useful citizens.

Joseph Morse, Jr., in 1851 married a second time. His wife was Ruth Perkins, of Carbon-dale. After living here for several years they removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., where they still live.



They have one son and two daughters still living, one son besides William K., having died.

Charles Morse, after living here several years, removed to Ohio. Joseph Morse, Sr., died in 1870, at the age of seventy-seven. He was for some years one of the associate judges of McKean, and several other counties.

W. J. Hornblower came to Ceres from New York city in the winter, or early spring of 1847. His son, William E., had come to Ceres a number of years before, and had settled at that time at Main Settlement, where his home is at the present time. W. J. Hornblower bought the place on lower King's Run, still known by his name, and built there the summer after he came. His family then consisted of his wife and two young daughters, the younger still not in her teens. The older, became in 1856 the wife of G. N. Hackett, and was the mother of Dr. G. W. Hackett, of Portville, and of H. N. Hackett, of Glenn. She died in 1877. The younger daughter of these two, Emily, married Andrew Hayward, and died several years after, leaving one daughter a few weeks old, which was adopted by her mother's oldest sister, Mrs. William Lanphere, who with her husband had followed her parents to Ceres. This child, long since grown to womanhood, is now the wife of W. Barry, of Texas. Mrs. W. J. Hornblower died in 1862. Anna, W. J. Hornblower's oldest daughter, married William Lanphere. He died at Ceres in 1862. After some years she married Mathew Green, of Little Genesee, and where she lived many years. She died in 1892, while on a visit to her daughter in Texas. Mrs. Green was a lovely woman; indeed the whole of W. J. Hornblower's family were a valuable addition to the society of Ceres, and were sincerely mourned by all who knew them.



Palermo Lackey and wife are the last of our very old citizens. She is in her ninety-second year and he in his ninety-first year. They bought the place where John Eastey had made a beginning, and had cleared a few acres and put up a log house. Mr. Lackey, after a little, put up the house where they now live, extended the clearing and planted an orchard. They have a comfortable home, Mr. Lackey and his wife having worked hard that they might have a competency for themselves and daughters. They had but one son and he went into the army and was killed. Mr. Lackey has one daughter still living, his first wife's child, and four daughters, his second wife's children, Mrs. John Green late of Alabama, Mrs. Rogers Crandall of Genesee, and Harriet and Mary who have always remained at home, Harriet having been an invalid since her girlhood. They are a family greatly beloved and respected. Mrs. Lackey retains her faculties in a wonderful degree, and seems as necessary to her family as she has in all the years that are past. Mr. Lackey, though somewhat crippled with rheumatism, did his chores about the barn, caring for a horse and cow and other things, and did considerable work until laid by with paralysis the past summer.

#### MAIN AND BARBER SETTLEMENTS.

Walter Lackey, a brother of Palermo, lived for many years a mile or more west from Ceres, on the Olcan Road. He died in 1891. He was an estimable man, and his wife is much beloved and respected. She is near eighty years old. She was a daughter of Captain Crandall—his oldest, I think. Mrs. Lackey has three daughters and one son still living. Her daughters are Mrs. Peckham, wife of Rev. Allen Peckham, Mrs. Susie



Ward of Penn Yan, and Miss Angelina Lackey.

Captain Nathan M. Crandall, Judge Maxson, Joseph Crandall, Milton and Sheffield Main, all came about 1830, and remained until death removed them like shocks of corn fully ripe.

Mrs. Joseph Crandall was a Main. Miss Julia Main accompanied her relatives here, and after teaching school awhile, became the wife of Russell Cooper, of Ceres.

Andrew Barber must have come about this time. He settled across the creek from Judge Maxson.

William Coon was another prominent citizen of Main. He died many years since. His wife is still living.

Barber Settlement is an extension of Main Settlement.

Moses Barber, a brother of Andrew Barber, must have come about 1845. He had a large family of children, some of whom married and settled in the vicinity. Blanchard married Olive Hamilton, and is one of the prominent citizens of Main. Elmer married a Miss Root of Bolivar, and moved to Ceres, where he kept the Oswayo house for some years, and later, a store; but he went west, I think to Michigan, soon after the war closed. Franklin, son of Moses, married a daughter of Andrew Barber, and is a prominent citizen of Barber Settlement. Laura, the younger daughter, married Fred Holmes, and is still living, having for years had her home with her son-in-law, George Hamilton, on King's Run. Noyes and Nelson Barber are living in Olean. Rowland Barber, of Barber Settlement, is a son of Andrew Barber, and one of the most prominent citizens there.

James Brown, of Barber Settlement, is another





citizen who is among the first of the little hamlet.

Enoch Maxson, a son of Judge Maxson, who married Andrew Barber's oldest daughter, is one of the oldest settlers there. He has been, like all his family, a hard working, industrious man, and has raised a large family of children to habits of industry and frugality.

These early settlers were none of them wealthy, and could not procure for their children the best advantages of the schools of the country, but it is interesting to note with what perseverance and energy many of the younger persons of both hamlets are acquiring a liberal education.

Other prominent citizens of Main are Ashley Packard, Charles Crandall, James Main, and, for many years, William R. Maxson, who sold out and moved to Richburg and has recently died there. Oliver Langworthy, who married Judge Maxson's youngest daughter and settled there in 1849, is one of the worthy citizens of the place. His sons are married and one living near him, the other at Carroll, and his daughter at Olean, the wife of Mr. Haight.

Ashley Packard married Virtue, one of Captain Mathew Crandall's daughters. They have one son who is a prominent man in Arizona.

George and Daniel Crandall were prominent citizens of the eastern part of Main Settlement. Daniel has recently gone to live with his daughter in Cuba. George is living at an advanced age and is feeble. His first wife was a Hamilton; his second, Mrs Eliza Mills.

Nathaniel Walker bought Captain Crandall's farm and lived there many years, dying in 1888. His wife has since died. They were excellent christian citizens.

John J. Robarts came to Ceres during the war



as a clerk for V. P. Carter. After some years he engaged in mercantile business for himself, and has been a resident of Ceres, with the exception of two or three years, ever since. He first married Ella, second daughter of V. P. Carter. She died, after several years, leaving one daughter, Grace, who is now a teacher in Massachusetts. In the course of two or three years after his first wife's death he married Minnie, daughter of A. C. and Isabella Hovey. They have four children. In 1887, John and Barney formed a partnership, under the name of Robarts Bros. In 1884, Barney engaged in mercantile business in Ceres, and moved here and built the beautiful home where they now live. His mother also left her home on Bell's Run and came to live with them. Henry Robarts came later. After a time he bought the Robinson place and nicely fitted it up, and has lived there for several years.

Alexander Martin, of Portage, N. Y., came with his family to Ceres in 1839. After several years his wife died, leaving him with two children. He took up a considerable tract of heavily timbered land and built a large sawmill near what is now known as Myrtle, but which was long known as Martin's Mills. He cleared the pine from the hills and valleys near him, and put considerable land under cultivation. He kept so many men in his employ that the houses built for them made a small settlement about his own home. He sold out and went with his son to Wisconsin, where he bought land and engaged in farming. His daughter married Prof. F. A. Allen, then principal of Smethport Academy, but at the time of his death, in 1880, in charge of a Soldiers' Orphan School at Mansfield, Pa., and his wife was appointed to take her husband's place and superintend it. She was the first woman to



whom the State of Pennsylvania ever gave an appointment.

Mr. Martin went to Wisconsin in 1859, and he and his son were both living as late as 1883. Mr. Martin was an enterprising business man, public-spirited and generous. He was a liberal subscriber when the church was built. His children were both graduates of Alfred University.

Ceres and its near vicinity is a remarkably healthy locality, judging from the large number of old people that have been among its inhabitants. Among those first families that came the Kings attained to good ages; so did the Bells and Smiths. A few years ago it was a matter of note that the number of old people on our streets was greater in proportion to its population than that of any other town in this part of the country; but they have passed away now, so that scarcely an octogenarian is left. We have had none that completed a century in their lives, but a number have been near it. Mary Bell was ninety-two, and her son Thomas far in the nineties. Sarah Clendenon was ninety-three, Martha Bell over ninety-five, Mrs. Lydia Almy nearly ninety-four; while those who have passed eighty have been much more numerous. Henry Chevalier was another who had passed his ninetieth year.

There never has been any prevailing epidemic more serious than measles or whooping cough. A case of fever which has lasted for more than a few days, has been rare. In the early history of the place there were a few cases of fever and ague, but none since those early days.

The epidemic of diphtheria on Bell's Run should not be passed over. In the spring of 1862 it first made its appearance and lasted nearly all summer. It was a new disease,





and the doctors did not know how to treat it. Dr. C. D. Thompson, who had been here for a year or two, finally learned to manage it much more successfully than any one else had. At that time the disease was not considered either contagious nor infectious. More than thirty were laid in the cemetery at Bell's Run that summer, nearly all children. There were but two cases at Ceres that summer, and they both recovered, though there were no precautions taken to prevent the spread of the dread disease. There have been but a few cases since at any time.

The valley of the Oswayo is wider than most of the valleys of even the larger streams in these hilly sections of country. In places it is nearly a mile wide, especially below the village for some distance. In other places it is narrower and the hills steeper. The north side of the hills are said to be more productive than the south side. The views through the valleys and from the hills in places are very fine. The young people of the present time can hardly imagine how dense the woods were, before the pine trees were removed. The Oswayo was a larger stream, before the forests were cut down, than it is now, and it kept up a goodly size through the summer to what it does now.

In 1847, a boy nine years old was lost on Bell's Run, and though men came to search for him from points as remote as Friendship and Angelica, and the search was kept up until he was found, it was over a week and he was dead, had died of starvation, and no wild beast had disturbed him.

One of the amusing freaks of the Indians had been to insert a branch of one tree into another, grafting it in so perfectly that, at the time I saw



it, 1870, it was not clear from which tree it belonged. It had been done before the place was settled. In the spring of 1852, Mary Swayne, the second daughter of Francis King, who was on a visit here from her home in Delaware, inquired if the "gallows tree" was still standing, and she went to see it, in company with one of her nieces. She had not seen it for very nearly forty years. Willson Bell, who has been for the last forty-five years mostly away from here, and had not seen it in that time, thinks the connecting beam not more than four or five inches thick, when he saw it last, but I think it was double that thickness when I saw it, and so others describe it. It was nearly parallel and sixteen or eighteen feet from the ground. The trees connected were elms. I can find no one who can give an exact measurement of them. Anson Maxson says that in drawing logs many years ago, he used to drive between the trees. One, if not both of them are gone, so little care has there been to preserve objects of interest, and it will take but a few years to obliterate all traces of the old buildings now standing, excepting the cellars and piles of stones.

The street along the south bank of the creek, known as Water street, is the finest in town, as far as residences are concerned. Just a little out of the village is Mr. Van Wormer's, and a trifle farther is Frank Smith's; then Henry Roberts' west of F. Van Wormer's and the two houses put up by Dr. Place to rent. Then comes the Doctor's house, which is really an ornament to the place. Next on the same side of the street is a nice house built by John Coon, who removed to Eldred several years since, but which is occupied by his brother, O. P. Coon; then Mr. Raymond's pleasant home, and



near that C. B. Robarts' residence, which is perhaps the nicest on the street, and adjoining his lot is his brother John's home, which is a pleasant place, though the house has been built for some time. On the street opposite Dr. Place's is a house built for the accommodation of persons using the water of the mineral well there; and the house built for Mrs. Palmer, Mr. Coon's former home. The past summer Albert Lanphere has built a nice house between the latter two houses, and has recently moved into it. As it is of modern style and nicely built and finished, it is an addition to the place that is prized. The two houses west, originally built by the Palmers, but now owned by O. P. Coon, are kept up in good shape for renting. There is no other house on that side of the street but Mrs. E. C. Smith's, near the bridge, which has been mentioned. On the New York side, Genesee street has a goodly number of pleasant residences, and High street adds to the size and prosperous appearance of the village. There has been improvement in the street running south from the bridge. Olean street has also improved within a few years. Though the growth of the place is small, there is still some improvement, but hardly enough to counteract the destruction by fires.

One of the means for social improvement, which the young men kept up for many years, was a debating society. I do not think that the young ladies took any part in it, but they were sometimes invited to be present in the later years of its existence.

The young ladies at the same time kept up a reading society which they developed into a lyceum, but I find no mention of it after 1844. Some of the leading ones in it married—some moved away or went away to teach or attend



school, and the society was allowed to die. The young people of that time cared for educational matters as they never have in as large numbers since. Their essays and poems which have been preserved show much talent. Some of them should go into this history.

As the young people began to marry the fashion prevailed of long wedding processions. They usually accompanied the newly married on their bridal tour and returned with them. This tour did not take in the large cities; neither was it so far distant but that they could return the same evening or in a day or two. Some of the wedding gatherings through the forties have not been surpassed in these later years.

A source of pleasure in the earlier years had been spelling schools and geography schools, the former probably longest retaining the general interest.

Early in the forties and even before, astronomy had become a popular study among the young people, and tracing constellations was a frequent source of amusement as well as of earnest study. Botany was another study that called forth much enthusiasm.

Frederick Leonard came to Ceres from Richburg in 1842. He first bought the property long known as the "old red hotel." He built a front to it and improved it in other ways, but after occupying it for several years he bought out Willard Taylor, and moved into the house which he had occupied, which was quite a way back from the road. He very soon after built the house at the corner of the road, which he so long occupied. Being industrious and energetic he did much hard work in clearing up his farm, lumbering, etc. His wife was an estimable woman, generous, and ready to go among the





sick, and to do for all who needed kindly aid. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. The younger son died in 1862, the younger daughter in 1881, and the mother in 1883, all having consumption. The older daughter, who was the widow of Horatio Bell, died in 1889. She left two sons, the older of whom is W. W. Bell, of Bradford; the younger, Edward S. Bell, now living with his family on his mother's place. The older son of Mr. Leonard, Elias, died at his home in Washington, D. C., in 1892, having two sons—Newton and Harry. After Mr. Leonard's wife died he lived with his daughter mostly until her death, and then with his grandson, E. S. Bell, until January, 1895, when he, too, passed away, being nearly eighty-seven years of age. He was a genial, pleasant man, who will long be missed in the community. He retained his faculties, with the exception of hearing, to the last. He was free from bad habits, and had been a strong temperance man for many years. He was a member of the Presbyterian church at Portville.

#### TORNADOES AND HURRICANES.

It is singular that the tornadoes and hurricanes of sixty years ago were more severe than of later years. There was then so much more of the primeval forest standing that one would naturally expect that the winds would never have been very severe, but the great amount of timber blown down show that they were. Two or three miles below Olean, in sight of the N. Y. & E. R. R., the timber on some of the hills was laid in parallel lines by the wind, more truly than a mower lays the grass with a scythe. There would not be a tree standing often for long distances in the path of the wind. In 1838



a man was killed by the falling of a tree between here and Myrtle, the only death that occurred from these storms, though there were many narrow escapes. There were no severe storms after that one until the summer of 1851 when a hail storm accompanied by wind, took most of the glass out of the western windows of many houses, and felled some trees. Again there were no severe storms for twenty or twenty-five years, but within a few years the wind has done considerable damage a number of times. It was especially destructive at Shongo a few miles away from Ceres.

Benjamin Perkins came to Ceres in 1836. He married Polly Palmer a sister of Mrs. Henry Smith, the second wife. He bought a farm beyond Henry Smith's, on the same road. He was energetic and industrious, and had a good farm and a nice home. He died in 1882, at the age of eighty-seven, and his wife in 1888. Their only daughter, Lurancy, married Reuben Carter, and died in 1873. Isaac removed when a young man to Marietta, Ohio, where he died in 1884, leaving three children. Adelbert is living at Shingle House. He married L. P. White's daughter, and has one son.

Mrs. Palmer came to Ceres, from Alfred, in 1833-4, and died here at an advanced age in 1885. She was the mother of Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Maxson, Mrs. Henry Smith, Mrs. Nancy Cotter, Mrs. William Belcher, Mrs. Sally Robinson, and Avery and Nathan Palmer. None of her family are now living, but Nancy. Her home has long been in Wisconsin. Mrs. Sally Robinson lived where Henry Robarts now lives. She cared for her mother many years, and was a very hard working woman. She died of paraly-



sis in the year 1885, leaving two sons, Charles and Warren.

The Holley brothers—Nathan, Abner, John, William and Barton—came here about 1840. They all settled in, or near Myrtle, which was long known as Holleyville. When Ralph Adams moved to Portage, not long before the war, John bought his house and lived there until his death, in 1890. His wife and three daughters now occupy the house. The father and stepmother of the Holley brothers came to them and lived near them until the father died, in 1865. Mrs. Holley then left her home and lived at John's until her death, in 1875.

F. M. Van Wormer is at present, and has been for many years, our leading business man. He came here in the early sixties, after having been for a time in his country's service in the early part of the civil war. He formed a partnership with Leonard White, and they bought the saw mill originally built by Cyrus Cooper, but which had had other owners. Being men of energy and perseverance they were successful in their business, and rapidly increased their means. A few years since the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Van Wormer retaining the mill and continuing the lumbering business. There was also a large flouring mill in connection with the other mill. These mills and all buildings connected with them were burned in 1890, but soon were rebuilt better than they were before, with the exception of the flouring mill. It seemed a pity that this latter mill should not have been rebuilt, as there is no mill nearer than Shingle House or Portville. Mr. Van Wormer bought the place where he now lives, of Dr. Babcock, who had not owned it but a few years. The house was built by William M.





Smith, and occupied by him several years, when he sold to Dr. Babcock, I think. Mr. Van Wormer has built it over and made so many changes that it does not seem like the same place. Mr. Van Wormer, employing a number of men, has built a considerable number of houses for them to occupy. As he is a good paymaster he has no difficulty in finding willing workmen.

While eminently successful in his business pursuits, sorrow has come to him in the death of his youngest daughter, who died when eleven years of age, and more recently in the death of his only son, Henry, who was about nineteen when he passed away. But he has much reason to be happy in two daughters who are left.

Mrs. Van Wormer is the daughter of D. B. Brown and his wife, who has recently passed away. She has proved herself a dutiful and affectionate daughter, through the many years she cared for both father and mother, and in her care for her father now.

D. B. Brown and wife, the parents of Mrs. F. M. Van Wormer, have lived in Ceres most of the time for over thirty years. She passed on to the heavenly land last spring. She was an excellent Christian woman; one to whom Christ was more than even her beloved church. The following article "in memoriam", was written by Mrs. M. W. Mann of Coudersport, and is no undeserved eulogy, but much more might be said of her earnest piety, and unfailing charity. Her children may well arise and call her "Blessed:"

MRS. ALICE H. BROWN.—It was, I think, in the year 1845, that she came with her husband and four little girls, from Philadelphia to Coudersport. Mr. Brown had just received orders as a



minister from the Presbyterian Home Mission Society. In consideration perhaps of the wild country and rough roads, a horse had been given him; a "missionary horse" that for want of any public conveyance, drew the whole family from Jersey Shore, Lycoming county, to this place. Jack was, perhaps, according to his knowledge, as faithful as his master and mistress, being a very useful helper.

There was no church building in this place, nor in the county, but Mr. Brown preached and Mrs. Brown went about among the neighbors, always bringing words of comfort and trying to point the way to the source of all blessing. The care of her family and the help she gave to every good undertaking in the community required more strength than she possessed, but she never shrank from any effort for others. There were few in this part of the country of their church. There were some ministers of other denominations and the people gave according to their ability and opportunity, but they were sometimes too scantily supplied with the necessities of life. But Mrs. Brown never lost heart, "The Lord will provide," she said. A young woman who was in the house assisting about sewing said that sometimes the last food was eaten, but always before another meal time, something was brought to them. He did provide.

The coming of two more children in the course of a few years made the living more difficult, and the building of the church, much of the work being done by Mr. Brown himself, and in which even the little girls helped—took much time and means—but the needs of poor and sick neighbors were always met by Mrs. Brown, in spite of her own cares and very fragile health. She had love and kindness for every one, pity for every



hungry animal. She was always at meetings for any benevolent purpose, always spoke, always helped, was one of the little band that started the Library and worked whenever she could meet with the others.

By the poor, old and young, by all who were in any way desolate and distressed, Mrs. Brown was most tenderly loved and revered. Her pity and her sympathy were unbounded.

Once, in her later days, a gentleman saw a tramp going to her house. He hastily closed his office and went to her assistance. As he came up he saw her giving food with one hand and tracts with the other. The gentleman went right back. She could fight her own battles with her own weapons. I cannot help thinking of those who will meet her on the other shore, or have already done so, with such love and gladness and thankfulness."

Jacob Brock came with his wife to Ceres in 1853. In 1862 he bought the place where he now lives, and made of it a nice home. He is a mason by trade. He has four children living—two sons and two daughters. The older daughter is the wife of L. C. Carrier, and lives here; the other the wife of H. D. Caskey, the editor of the Austin Autograph.

B. F. Call and family came to Ceres in 1857. He was a shoemaker, and long kept a shoe shop here. He was a worthy and respected citizen. He built the house where his son and daughter now live. He died in 1886 at the age of seventy-eight, and his wife in 1890.

John B. Gleason came to Ceres in 1870. In 1871 he bought the house on the corner, which had been built about 1860, by Willard Barber,



who had removed to Olean. Mr. Gleason, in addition to a shoe shop and shoe store, has, much of the time for many years, kept a grocery store, and some of the time a general store. He has two sons living, his only daughter, a lovely girl, having died in 1881, in her eighteenth year.

Some changes that have been made in the location of the roads, should be mentioned. The change has already been noticed in the road from Mr. Leonard's to where the road meets that going south, and up King's Run, the original name of which stream was Mill Creek. Another change in the roads was from the bridge over the race near Dr. Place's office. The road at first ran so near the creek that there were no houses between them. It was placed where it is now in the early forties, and raised so that it was hoped the water would not overflow it. Another change was made in the road toward Genesee, and it was placed where it is at present in 1847. It formerly went over the hill, and near where John Austin's old house stands, which accounts for the isolated situation of that house.

Two changes have been made in the road going west from the village. It formerly went near John Bell's old house, but being on such low land that it was overflowed in time of high water, it was moved some distance up on the hillside, but was afterwards put down to its present location, though it could still be greatly improved by putting it two or three rods lower.

C. A. Warner came to Ceres in 1857. He established a harness shop and worked here for two or three years, and then tried several other places. He married Maggie Fay and returned and bought the house where Charles Bell now





lives. His wife died in 1869, leaving him with four small children. He gave the youngest to its mother's sister, and hired the other three and himself boarded until in 1871 he married his present wife, Addie Cooper. After a little he bought out E. N. Andrus and moved to that place, where he remains unto the present, having greatly improved and enlarged the house. His present wife has three children living, the oldest being the wife of John Miller, of Rixford. Mr. Warner added a grocery to his other business about twelve years ago, but has been so true to his temperance principles that he has never sold tobacco in any form, though there is nothing sold except alcoholic liquors that brings so large a profit. He has been twice burned out, but by diligence and industry has been prospered, so that in his quiet way he has been a very helpful as well as useful citizen, a good church member, and long a superintendent of the Sunday school.

Nelson Hackett came to Ceres in 1847. He bought of Robert King a place which he had partially cleared, and had built a temporary house. I think that he had also set out an orchard. Mr. Hackett cleared much more land, put up good buildings and after many years of hard work had an excellent farm. He did much to improve the roads, both he and Mr. Chevalier, so that there was no better roads about this section of country, until mills were put up in various places on King's Run to work up the hemlock.

Mr. Hackett married Charlotte Hornblower for his first wife. She died in 1877, leaving him three children, the youngest of whom died in less than a year after the mother. His younger son is married and living on the homestead; the



other is preparing to be a physician. Mr. Hackett has made his influence felt for temperance throughout the township, and has been ready to support churches and schools, and whatever was for the advancement of the best interests of not only his own, but other communities. If any one was burned out, or in any way especially needing relief or comfort, no one but he was so ready to take his team and spend his time in securing donations for their relief. In 1878 he married, for his second wife, Hannah Bell, daughter of John Bell. They still live on the farm, but in a new house, and are both intent on doing for all who need.

Potter Benson, and his brother Daniel, came to Ceres in 1832. He married Henrietta Gilbert, daughter of Robert and Mary Gilbert. He was a farmer and owned a farm about a mile above town, where his wife still lives with her youngest son. Potter Benson was a good citizen, honorable in all his dealings, and a truly good man. He left four daughters and one son. One son had died for his country during the rebellion. His oldest daughter is the widow of Justus Rice, of Eldred. She has four children living. One of her sons was drowned the past winter, and was brought to Myrtle, making the fifth generation of his mother's people buried there. The second daughter is the wife of G. W. Lewis, of Vineland, and has eleven children. The third daughter, Elizabeth, is the wife of Rowland R. Bell. She has eight children; his son, Brice B., has five, and the youngest daughter, Harriet, wife of Alvah Hall, of Allegany, has three. Few have left a larger circle of descendants, and if they prove as worthy as they now give fair promise of being, his name will long be honored through



them. His wife is now in her eighty-second year and shows the infirmities of age.

#### THE PLANK ROAD.

After the New York and Erie railroad was completed to Olean there was much travel from Ceres to Olean, and the roads often being very bad in the spring and fall of the year, it was deemed advisable to have a plank road from Ceres village to Olean station. A company was formed and incorporated, with the following officers: F. S. Martin, president; C. V. B. Barse, secretary and treasurer.

There being much interest in it the building progressed rapidly, and it was ready for use as early as 1852, in part, I am told; that is, the part from Olean to Portville. For a time it yielded moderate dividends to the stockholders, but soon the repairs needed took all the receipts over and above those paid to the two gatekeepers, and early in the sixties the road was allowed to go down, and the earth road for a time was worse than ever before. A mistake in the management of the road had been in allowing heavily loaded wagons to pass over it for the same amount that would be asked for a light carriage; a heavily loaded wagon would cut into the planks and wear out more than a number of light wagons or carriages could.

In 1888 Louis Carrier bought the place formerly owned by Henry Rose, and put up a handle factory, which he runs by steam and has kept in operation for several years.

To give an idea of the dense wilderness here, about 1840 Welding and Horatio Bell went out one afternoon hunting, on the hills south of Ceres. Welding returned at night, but said that Hora-





tio went in another direction for game, and as he did not return that night nor the next day, there was much anxiety felt for him. Because of his having had one knee out of joint it was feared that it had given out and he might be somewhere helpless in the woods. A good many turned out to hunt for him, and there was much rejoicing when he returned about sundown of the second day that he had been out. He had been lost, but had the presence of mind to follow the first stream that he came to towards its mouth. This was Potato creek, and when he went until he found a dwelling and could learn his whereabouts, it took him the greater part of the next day to walk home.

Mrs. Geo. Lewis, of Vineland, gives some interesting reminiscences of the younger days of her grandmother Mary Gilbert. All the new-comers found a home at Francis King's until they could build homes of their own. Mary Bee, as her name was when she came to the country, must have been a young woman, as she married Robert Gilbert, of Philadelphia, only about two years afterward. John Bell, Sr. and family must have remained at F. King's the first winter after they came. In the spring, maple trees were tapped and sugar making begun. She went out one day toward evening to gather the sap. The sugar bush was up King's near the Hornblower place. After she had been to work some time, she heard wolves howling on the hills east of her, but she kept on with her work and shortly she heard wolves answering them on the hills west, but she still kept on with her work. They evidently were approaching the vicinity where she was, but she would not leave until the sap was gathered, but she made very quick time home then.



At another time she met a panther, or came near to it, crouched in the road. She kept her eye on it and walked backward until she came to her brother nearly a quarter of a mile away. Then the panther turned and trotted away into the swamp. As it was daytime and she could keep her eye on him, there was probably little danger that it would spring upon her unless she turned and ran, and she was so fearless that she would hardly have done that.

Mrs. Gilbert remembered wolves coming up and looking into the windows after dark. This would not be surprising when we remember that sheep could only be kept by putting them into covered pens at night.

From the accounts of the long journey made to have the marriage ceremony properly fulfilled, it will be readily seen that it was no matter of small moment. Divorces were not the order of the day then, indeed, have never been among the Quakers. When a bashful young man and woman had schooled themselves into having their intention to marry made public before three meetings, and then before a large meeting had stood up and taken each other by the hand and, without the aid of minister or officer of the law, repeated the solemn vows which were to bind them to each other, there was not much probability that in the course of a few months, or even a few years, they would be seeking a divorce in courts of law. Marriage, to be legal and proper, had to be performed in an open meeting of the Society and could not be done in a private house and merely before friends. Expulsion from the Society was the penalty.

The first carriage that passed through Ceres was owned by Dr. Almy of Olean and attracted as much attention, if not more, than the cars did



when they came through. Dr. Almy had an interest in the lumber company that had their headquarters at Millport and used to go backward and forward with his family or members of the company. When he sold out John King bought this carriage, which must have been about 1840. J. King before this had a light wagon which was known as a Dearborn wagon. Both carriage and wagon would be a curiosity now with their high wheels which brought the seats up nearly as high as the horses' backs, and other quaint peculiarities about them. The large wheels were a necessity, for there were often streams to ford and not unfrequently mud so deep that the carriage needed to be high.

In writing about the mail routes an important one was omitted—that from Ceres to Friendship—which must have been opened very early in the forties, if not the last of the thirties. John Bell had the contract for carrying this for a number of years. It was generally carried on horseback, and only once a week. This was kept up until the completion of the New York & Erie railroad, when Charles Rounds began to run a daily stage.

As early as 1811 Francis King had opened a road from Ceres to Nile. This was probably done so that the Genesee flats might be reached, where they frequently went to obtain flour.

I have a letter before me dated Marietta, O., November 25, 1813, which was sent to Robert Hoops, of Olean, but mailed to Angelica as the more direct route. Mr. Hoops sent this letter to John King, as it contained an item of business for him. The postage on it was twenty-five cents. He also sent with it two newspapers of



the latest date, which he wished returned after they were read, as at that date (1813) they probably contained important war news. He also sent a message from the President, to the return of which he was quite indifferent.

Alexander Martin died at his daughter's, in Mansfield, Pa., in 1890, where he had spent the last three years of his life. He was ninety-three years of age.

For many years, perhaps up to 1840 and later, the Indians used to come here more or less every spring, to hunt and make baskets. They would build wigwams of hemlock bark, which were too low for them to stand up in, but which afforded them a comparatively comfortable place to sleep, and into which they could crawl in time of a storm. They built their fires close to the opening, and slept with their feet towards it. They had no beds, but covered the ground in the wigwam thick with hemlock boughs, then rolled themselves up in their blankets and slept their heavy, dreamless sleep. The squaws were expected to carry their baggage, which was not much—a kettle and the provision on hand—and their papposes, and to do nearly all that was done beside the hunting. The squaws must have been as industrious as the Indians were lazy. The men with the women used often to come around with stacks of baskets for sale. These were made of splints obtained from the wood of the white ash, I think, and, though the Indians were so dirty, their baskets were spotlessly clean. They were made in a great variety of styles and for various purposes. They colored them with bright colored paints or dyes, the designs being cut out of potatoes and stamped upon the splints after they were woven into the





baskets. Some of the splints were dyed through-out. The women also did much bead-work, making slippers, purses, reticules and pin-cushions for sale.

The dress of the squaws consisted of a blue broadcloth skirt, embroidered about the bottom with either beads or porcupine quills which had been cut in short lengths and dyed in bright colors, so that they looked much like beads. The upper garment was a loose calico sacque fastened down front with many silver brooches. They wore neither shawl nor bonnet, but all had the blanket, which was thick and heavy, with a broad band of blue near either end. They would draw the blankets partly over their heads, which was a better protection than a fashionable bonnet. I remember one who came from near Buffalo, who was more civilized than the others, and whom they called "Mrs. Dexterday," wore a man's silk hat. Gradually they have adopted the costumes of the whites, and now it would be difficult to find one still retaining the old style of dress. In those days squaws lashed their babies to a board with strips of bark, and carried them on top of the large basket that contained their goods, which was carried on the back with a wide band passing across the forehead. Here the poor little papoose's face was exposed to rain and storm, though when the weather was severe it was kept under the blanket.

There was an old Indian around late in the forties, who traveled about the country many years, an outcast from his tribe for some crime he had committed. One report I used to hear was that he had killed his wife. He seemed perfectly harmless, and I do not remember his asking for anything but a drink of buttermilk, at



almost every house. He only came about in the summer time.

During the summer the berries again brought the Indians around. They sold large quantities of huckleberries, blackberries and cranberries.

Oil has not been found in sufficient quantities about Ceres to pay for working for it, but gas has, and it was first used for lighting and heating purposes in the village of Ceres in 1888. At first there seemed no end to the supply; now new wells have frequently to be put down, and learning that in some sections it had almost disappeared, people are more careful, and it is not used for lighting the streets as at first; but almost every house is warmed by it, and many lighted. It is a wonderful convenience, and comfort, too. If the early settlers could be restored to life and see the railroads, telegraphs, telephones, and the many other inventions that they had never imagined, they would be incomprehensible to them; but to us they have come so gradually that we hardly realize their great importance, nor the progress the place has made.

The first railroad through this section was from Bradford to Wellsville, passing through Eldred, Ceres, Genesee, Bolivar and Allentown. It was built in the summer of 1881, and was abandoned in January, 1893. In the spring of 1882 another road was built, being a branch of the Lackawanna & Pittsburg. Both were narrow gauge. Owing to strife between the two companies, the latter road after running parallel and side by side with the other, when it came by the Van Wormer mill, and some distance this side, then turned a little northward, taking off some from the Call and Gleason lots, and more



from the Danforth place, passed in front of the church, crossing the street twice, and sadly marring the little village, when it might have been placed back of the church and side by side with the other. They ran side by side again after leaving the village a short distance. It is true that the church recovered \$400 damages for the trees cut down and the injury to the lot, but it was small pay, for the annoyance of having the road so near is an abiding one.

Ceres has sent out some citizens who hold honored positions in other places, as well as having retained some. Of a later generation than most of those mentioned, were the two sons of Dr. Ledyard, W. W. Bell of Bradford, the Stevens boys—Edward, Burt and Irwin; Will H. Smith of Auburn, Henry Gillett of Olean, and others, who deserve mention; and we trust that there are still others coming, for the days of good boys and girls have hardly passed.

N. A. Hendryx came here over thirty years ago. After a few years he bought what was known as the Luther Potter place, and built a nice house just east of Leonard White's. His family consists of a wife, one daughter and three sons. The older three children are married, the two sons living near him. Mr. Hendryx is a blacksmith.

Livingston White, son of Leonard White, had a nice home just east of N. A. Hendryx, but the past spring he bought the Benjamin Perkins farm and has recently removed there. It is a desirable location and not quite a mile from the village.

"Coon Hollow" is a little hamlet, an annex of Ceres, nearly a mile to the west and north of it.





Eugene Coon first began a clearing there nearly thirty years ago, and has lived there with his family most of the time since. He has a good farm and buildings, and since gas was found on his land has been increasingly prosperous. Several others have bought near him, and there are generally a number of families employed by him or his near neighbor, Mr. Oleson. Several years since, Mr. Gaskill, who was then living at Shingle House, bought land and built and moved his family there, where they lived for a few years, but farming not proving as profitable as they expected, they sold out and removed to New Jersey, much to the regret of all who had become acquainted with them.

The following letter shows that Ceres was a part of Centre county, and that the county officers of McKean had to report at Bellefonte, the capital of Centre county. All the early letters were directed to "Ceres, Lycoming county," until McKean county was formed, and even after that for some time:

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }  
HARRISBURG, May 18, 1813. }

Sir: I have to inform you that the Governor has appointed Joseph Otto a Justice of the Peace for the district including the Township and Town of Ceres, in the county of McKean, and that his commission has been forwarded to William Petriken, Esquire, Recorder of Centre county, as it appears that McKean county is still under the jurisdiction of Centre county—it was under consideration with the Legislature in the last session to annex McKean to Lycoming county, but it was not done.

The Legislature of the State of New York has "appropriated six thousand dollars for a road



from the state line at the termination of our road, to Hamilton, thence to the outlet of Chautauqua Lake, as near as convenient to the state line." Not understanding rightly the direction of this road, you will much oblige me by a few lines showing the place where the road will begin, and end, and its general direction, the advantages that will result to our State, and particularly the county where you reside, from the opening of this road. I do not understand whether it is our line, or that of New York, is spoken of. Where is the Town of Hamilton situate, and what is meant by the outlet of Chautauqua Lake? You will excuse me while I ask for the foregoing information, and for an answer as soon as it will suit your convenience.

I am respectfully,

Your friend,

FRANCIS KING,  
at Ceres.

JAMES TRIMBLE.

The above letter is written upon a sheet of paper 8x13 inches. It was folded twice and mailed without envelope, being merely fastened together with red sealing wax. The postage was twenty-five cents, that being the common price at that time. Later it was 18¾c., after that 12½c., still later 6¼c., and from that to 5c. 3c. and to the present 2c. The directions were written upon the middle fold of the paper, as follows:

On public service.

FRANCIS KING, Esq'r,  
at Ceres in McKean County,  
by the way of  
Jersey Shore.



Early in June, 1898, will be the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Francis King and family at Ceres. He came the year before and cleared a few acres, and sowed them to wheat, and built a log house for his home, and then returned for his family. One or the other of these years should be celebrated by his descendants, and the descendants of the other early settlers who came soon after him; and as all of those living, (though none of them are nearer than grandchildren) are all elderly people, and many of them will not probably last long, it would seem advisable to meet in June, 1897, and celebrate the building of the first house and the clearing of the first land by white people in Ceres.

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